

Bega Valley Shire Council News

Issue 28 - Wednesday 18 December 2019

connecting council and the community

“Iconic” walk opened

A spectacular walkway with sweeping ocean views that links the Tathra Headland and the Tathra Wharf was officially opened today by the Member for Bega, the Hon. Andrew Constance MP.

“This is a tremendous asset for the local community that showcases Tathra’s history and will be a tourism drawcard for the region with its stunning views and whale watching opportunities,” Minister Constance said.

The all-abilities 300-metre walkway features a series of boardwalks and walking paths, as well as an elevated viewing platform with sensational views.

Mayor Cr Kristy McBain said she was absolutely delighted to see the project become a reality.

“This iconic walk that has been created is a testament to the vision, passion and dedication of the Tathra community and it is absolutely fantastic that the NSW Government recognised the value it will bring to town and have supported it so strongly,” Cr McBain said.



Continued page 6

The spectacular Tathra Headland Walk was officially opened to the public this afternoon.

Strategic documents and SRV modelling

Bega Valley Shire Council is seeking feedback from the community on several key strategic planning documents that are now on exhibition.

With Council having notified the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) of its intention to apply for a Special Rate Variation (SRV), it is a requirement that Council’s Integrated Planning and Reporting documents and any updated associated plans be exhibited and adopted prior to a formal application being submitted.

The documents include the draft Revised Delivery Program 2017-2021 and draft Operational Plan 2020-2021, including Council’s Budget and

Revenue Policy; the draft Fees and Charges 2020-2021; and the Swimming Pools Asset Management Plan. An amended Financial Strategy and Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP), as elements of Council’s Resourcing Strategy, will also be on exhibition.

Council’s Acting General Manager, Anthony McMahon, said the modelling and proposal to introduce an SRV to fund the operations, maintenance, renewals and upgrades of the Shire’s six public swimming pools was a key element of the combined community consultation period.

Continued page 3



Bega Valley
Commemorative
Civic Centre

Zingel Place, Bega

www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/Civicculture



[begacivicculture](https://www.facebook.com/begacivicculture)

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



Fire asbestos management award

Local Government NSW has recognised Bega Valley Shire Council for the way it managed the clean-up of the Tathra and District fire.

They announced Council had won the Asbestos Management Award at their annual Excellence in Environment Awards in Sydney recently. The Council also won the Behaviour Change in Waste for the introduction of the FOGO (Food Organics Garden Organics) bin collection service.

The Tathra and District fire destroyed around 70 homes and damaged a lot more, generating around 19,000 tonnes of waste. This included more than 8,000 tonnes of asbestos.

Bega Valley Shire Mayor, Cr Kristy McBain, said the award recognised the scale and impact of the devastating fires, and Council’s swift and robust approach in responding.

“It takes a long time for a community to recover from fire, but in the short-term managing waste was one of the many practical steps we needed to take quickly. We had to ensure we disposed of all materials in the best possible manner,” she said.

“At Council we are very proud of the team’s efforts at this very traumatic time for the community. They needed to be efficient and sensitive while managing all the complex regulatory requirements,” Cr McBain said.

Council’s Waste Management Coordinator, Joley Vidau, said the biggest challenge was the speed at which teams needed to act.

“Council’s existing plans for disaster recovery addressed waste management issues at high



In April 2018, then Recovery Coordinator, Euan Ferguson and Council’s then Waste and Recycling Manager, Toby Browne, inspect an air monitoring device installed at the Eden Waste Depot to ensure the safety of the public.

level, but we needed to develop a detailed, practical plan in a very short timeframe. Asbestos added a layer of complexity, with friable asbestos providing a risk to passers-by and people cleaning up,” Ms Vidau said.

Air monitoring equipment was installed in Tathra to detect airborne asbestos particles, and stabilisation of asbestos-affected properties was achieved by spraying a stabilisation product.

“Communication was essential with all parties

as we needed to make sure we met regulatory requirements and engaged the required specialist contractors, while keeping both the fire-affected and broader communities informed.”

Bega Valley Shire Council was among 16 category winners at this year’s Local Government NSW awards which recognise outstanding achievements by local government in managing and protecting the environment.

Council supports Careers Day

Staff from across a wide range of Council services and operations recently participated in a Careers Day for about 70 local high school students to support young people make informed decisions as they consider their future career paths.

Students from Bega High School, Sapphire Coast Anglican College and Eden Marine High School took the opportunity to broaden their knowledge about different careers and employment opportunities available to them by talking to Council staff with skills and qualifications ranging from engineering and finance to children’s services and occupational health.

A ‘career speed session’ gave small groups of students the chance to ask questions and learn about work experience, traineeships, cadetships and apprenticeships available with Council.



A large number of Council staff attended the recent high schools’ Careers Day.

What's ON!

LOCAL EVENTS

29 December 2019
Tathra Pig Day Out @ Tathra Country Club
Gates open at 11.00am

31 December 2019
NYE Fireworks @ Barclay Street Sports Complex
9.30pm - 10.00pm

2 January 2020
Tathra Cup Race Day @ SCTC
noon - 6.00pm

List your event
on Council's
Local Events
Calendar

www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/events

First year of FOGO smashes targets

In the first year of Bega Valley Shire's FOGO bin collection service, residents have diverted almost 5000 tonnes of food and garden waste away from landfill, five times more than initial targets.

The shire also has one of the lowest contamination rates in Australia, with only 0.4% of what goes into kerbside green bins being waste that should be in either the landfill or recycling bins.

Mayor Cr Kristy McBain said Council sincerely appreciated the positive way the Bega Valley community embraced the new FOGO service.

"We were hoping to divert around 1000 tonnes in the first year and are rapt with diverting nearly 5000. On behalf of Councillors and Council staff, I'd like to send out a big thank you to our community for helping keep so much food waste out of landfill," Cr McBain said.

"FOGO has been a huge success for this shire thanks to the incredible support from our community. Not only have we exceeded our targets of waste diversion, we have done so with one of the lowest contamination rates in NSW."

Cr McBain said future plans include making FOGO available to commercial customers, with results

of a commercial trial with Bermagui businesses demonstrating a strong demand for the service.

Australia throws out \$8-\$10 billion worth of food, or around four million tonnes, every year. This ends up in landfill and generates methane, a potent greenhouse gas 25 times worse than carbon dioxide.

"The success of FOGO shows how much our residents care about reducing their impact on the environment," Cr McBain said.

"By diverting over a third of kerbside food waste from landfill, we are producing less methane, making our landfill last longer and producing compost. This a valuable resource which cycles back into our community on public parks and sporting fields, as well as being available at certain times of the year for people to purchase and put on their gardens."

Cr McBain said she was proud to live in a community that led the way in waste management.

"A lot of other Councils looking to introduce FOGO are coming to us for advice because they can see how well the service works here. We are also seeing other innovation from within our community with new businesses seeing opportunities to



Mayor Cr Kristy McBain and Waste Management Coordinator, Joley Vidau, say 'thanks Bega Valley for choosing the right bin'.

reduce what goes into landfill.

"One example is Ocean2earth Australia, who have just won the 'recycled organics award' in the 2019 Sustainable Communities Tidy Towns Awards. They are collecting fish waste from specially-marked blue bins at public boat ramps and turning it into high quality compost."

Cr McBain encouraged people to

download the free Bega Valley Waste APP to keep track of what can and can't go into their FOGO bins. She said people could also ask questions via the Bega Valley Waste and Recycling Facebook page.

"We'd love to get our contamination rates even lower so that means it's vitally important for people not to put things like plastic or glass in their green bins," she said.

Provide feedback on the proposed pools rate variation

From page 1

"With Council committed to pursuing the goal of continuing with the six pools in to the future, it is imperative that there is a dedicated funding source and through introducing the proposed SRV over three years and retaining it on an ongoing basis, we will be able to secure their respective futures," Mr McMahon said.

"We have investigated a range of approaches

over many years on how best to manage our pools – from closing pools to public-private partnerships, increasing borrowings, applying for grants (which we will still actively pursue) and reducing service levels in other areas to fund the pools. None of these options have so far delivered a sustainable way forward.

"While we understand that rate rises of any kind are never welcome, it is clear that without the introduction of the proposed SRV, the six-pool goal cannot be met."

The draft strategies can be viewed at www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/haveyoursay and hard copies are available at the libraries at Bermagui, Bega, Tura Beach and Eden and the Council Offices in Zingel Place, Bega.

A flyer, providing more detail on the SRV

proposal and modeling, will be sent to ratepayers in early January.

Have Your Say sessions will also be held:

- Tuesday 14 January - Tura Marrang Library (2.00pm – 6.00pm)
- Wednesday 15 January - Bega Valley Commemorative Civic Centre (2.00pm – 6.00pm)
- Thursday 16 January - Bermagui Library (2.00pm – 6.00pm)

Submissions regarding the draft documents can be made until Friday, 24 January 2020, via Council's Have Your Say page (see link above), via email at council@begavalley.nsw.gov.au, or by post to PO Box 492, Bega NSW 2550.

For more information, contact Council on (02) 6499 2222.



THANKS
BEGA VALLEY,
you're the
BEST

Almost **5000** tonnes of food waste diverted from landfill in the first year of FOGO!

0.4% contamination in your FOGO bins, among the lowest in Australia!

Land strategies on exhibition



Provide your feedback on the draft Residential and Commercial Land Strategies.

Bega Valley Shire Council is seeking feedback from the community on two important draft land use strategies currently on public exhibition.

The draft Residential and Commercial Land Strategies work towards the community's vision outlined in the Bega Valley Shire Community Strategic Plan 2040 and the South East and Tablelands Regional Plan 2036, and once adopted will inform the Bega Valley Shire Local Strategic Planning Statement 2040 (LSPS).

Council has been working with specialist consultants, local residents and business people to review and address the future land needs across the Shire.

Council's Director Community, Environment and Planning, Alice Howe, said those involved in the initial consultation processes had provided invaluable knowledge, in addition to creative thinking and solutions.

"The issues raised, and information shared during workshops, community meetings and interviews informed the draft strategies and character statements for our towns and we are very keen to carry this momentum forward through this public exhibition period," Dr Howe said.

"The draft Residential Land Strategy addresses the

future need for housing and provides direction about how and where residential growth will occur and makes recommendations about how Council can support housing supply and diversity.

"Opportunities for industry growth and trends such as physical changes in commercial centres, changing technologies, and national and global economic factors are all explored in the draft Commercial Land Strategy. It also establishes a commercial centres hierarchy for the Shire and identifies actions that can be taken by Council to address these trends.

The draft strategies can be viewed at www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/haveyoursay and hard copies are available at the libraries at Bermagui, Bega, Tura Beach and Eden; at the Council Offices in Zingel Place, Bega; and at the Bemboka, Candelo, Cobargo and Tathra post offices.

Submissions regarding the draft strategies can be made until Sunday 16 February 2020, via Council's Have Your Say page (see link above), via email at council@begavalley.nsw.gov.au, or by post to PO Box 492, Bega NSW 2550.

For more information contact Anna Bowman, on (02) 6499 2384 or email abowman@begavalley.nsw.gov.au.

School holidays at the libraries

Unicorns and bugs, stars, mazes and magic stories and craft will keep children's imaginations soaring these holidays with the Bega Valley Shire Library's Summer Holiday Program.

At Tura Marrang library, children can be part of NSW Rocks which is a rock painting hide 'n' seek activity trending across the State.

Combining the creativity of rock painting with the mystery and surprise of a treasure hunt, this is an activity which could become addictive for the whole family.

Children will hide their decorated rocks for others to find and then they can search for painted rocks that others have hidden in our local area.

For technology buffs, the Soulcubes Summer Game Guide is a day-long gamdev workshop aimed at teaching the fundamentals of game development in the unity game engine.

At the end of the day, participants will walk away with a completed game they can call their own.

More info at <https://bit.ly/SummerGameGuide>.

To find out what activities are on at your local library these holidays, call in and ask for a school holiday schedule, check the library's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/begavalleyshirelibrary or go to www.begavalleyshirelibrary.eventbrite.com.au.



SAVE THE ENVIRONMENT!

Receive your
Rates & Water Notices
via email

SAVE TIME!



Register Online
begavalley.enotices.com.au

Learning Centre energy savings



The installation of solar and lighting upgrades have resulted in a 40% cost saving on energy for the Bega Valley Regional Learning Centre in Merimbula.

The Bega Valley Regional Learning Centre in Merimbula is seeing substantial energy savings from its recent lighting upgrades and solar installation, an initiative which is part of Council’s Clean Energy Plan.

In July this year, all lighting was upgraded to LED and a new 30 kW solar PV system was installed. The result is an impressive 40% saving on energy bills compared with the same quarter last year.

The centre is on track to meet its predicted net annual power consumption reduction by 67,000 kWh which will prevent over 55 tonnes of carbon pollution emissions reaching the atmosphere each year.

These energy savings equate to Council planting over 1,200 trees every year – or about 30,000 trees over the life of the PV system.

Through its Clean Energy Plan, Council is committed to using Council facilities to generate renewable energy and continue to reduce its energy consumption through energy efficiency measures such as lighting upgrades.

New protocol for fire access track

Key representatives from Rural Fire Service (RFS) Far South Coast, NSW Police and Bega Valley Shire Council met recently to ensure clear messages and processes are in place in relation to the fire access track at the southern end of Mirador Estate, following questions raised by residents.

RFS Far South Coast Superintendent, John Cullen; Chief Inspector Peter Volf of NSW Police; and Bega Valley Shire Council General Manager, Leanne Barnes, announced that under the agreed protocol, the gate to the fire access road will be unlocked by the RFS in the event of ‘Extreme’ and ‘Catastrophic’ Fire Danger Ratings (FDR’s) and at the discretion of the RFS at times of an incident threatening the immediate area only.

Ms Barnes said the new protocol surrounding the fire access track provides clarity for all concerned.

“Council and our emergency agency partners have noted the concerns expressed by some members of the community and this agreement will provide a consistent and clear approach to the fire access track moving forward,” she said.

“Minor work has been undertaken to remove encroaching vegetation and improve the surface of the track and shoulders to ensure that it is suitable for emergency vehicle access, that there is sufficient room for vehicles to safely pass one another (outside of the immediate gate area off Camilla Court) and it is trafficable by two-wheel drive vehicles.

“It is still absolutely vital to stress that the primary purpose of the track remains to provide access for our emergency services and it should only be used by the public when absolutely necessary,” Ms Barnes said.

RFS Superintendent John Cullen reiterated his clear and consistent message to those living in Mirador

and throughout the Shire to take the time to put a bushfire plan in place.

“Know your risk, be prepared and stay informed. Importantly we need people to be aware of the FDR and adjust their activities accordingly,” Mr Cullen said.

“On days with an ‘Extreme’ FDR, leaving early is the safest option for your survival. If you are not prepared to the highest level, leave early in the day. Only consider staying if you are prepared to the highest level – such as your home is specially designed, constructed or modified, and situated to withstand fire, you are well prepared and can actively defend it if a fire starts.

“When the FDR reaches ‘Catastrophic’, for your survival, leaving early is the only option. Leave bush fire prone areas the night before or early in the day – do not just wait and see what happens. Decide when you will leave, where you will go, how you will get there and when you will return. Homes are not designed to withstand fires in catastrophic conditions, so you should leave early,” Superintendent Cullen said.

Chief Inspector Volf, who is also the designated Local Emergency Operations Controller for the Bega Valley, said the new protocol was consistent with the Local Emergency Management Plan.

“Through the agreed protocol we expect confusion to be minimised and unnecessary delays prevented in situations when emergency access and/or the evacuation of residents is required,” Chief Inspector Volf said.

To stay up to date with the latest information surrounding bush fires, visit www.rfs.nsw.gov.au, download the Fires Near Me smartphone app, follow the NSW and Far South Coast RFS on social media, and tune in to ABC radio.

Bega Valley Shire library

SUMMER READING CLUB

A Roomful of Stories

3 January - 14 February 2020

Stories are everywhere waiting to be discovered

JOIN THE CHALLENGE

bega valley shire council

SL State Library of Queensland

Queensland Government

GET READY

Bega Valley

Key infrastructure projects launched



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development, Michael McCormack, visited the Shire to officially open the Bega Saleyards upgrade, the new Merimbula Airport terminal and the new Merimbula Visitor Information Centre.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development, the Hon. Michael McCormack MP, visited the Bega Valley Shire today to officially open three federally-funded projects which boost key infrastructure for the region.

The \$4.4 million upgrade to the Merimbula Airport Terminal was jointly funded with the Federal Government investing \$1.2 million and Bega Valley Shire Council investing \$3.2 million.

The extension and refurbishment project included new departure and arrival lounges, screening and luggage facilities as well as a carpark expansion.

“These upgrades have improved accessibility, safety and capacity which means Merimbula airport will now be able to service more passengers and a wider range of aircraft, supporting business and tourism to this wonderful region,” Mr McCormack said.

Bega Valley Shire Mayor, Cr Kristy McBain, said its fantastic to see the travelling public enjoying the added comfort and improved facilities the new terminal has brought.

“The airport user groups played a key role in the development of the plans and STEA Astute Architecture and Joss Constructions have done a

tremendous job in turning the vision into a reality,” Cr McBain said.

“We now have a modern and appealing gateway to our Shire to welcome all those travelling here by air.”

The Deputy PM also launched the Bega Saleyards Upgrade which improves animal welfare standards and facilities for local farmers, buyers and sellers. The project received \$790,000 from the Australian Government’s Drought Fund, based on a grant application by Council.

Mr McCormack said the upgrade included the installation of rubber matting on concrete livestock pens, an open bay with shade and a rainwater tank.

“The Bega Saleyards supports more than 2,000 buyers and sellers from across the region every year. These important upgrades will improve the safety, accessibility and functionality of this site supporting the local agricultural community,” Mr McCormack said.

Bega Valley Shire Mayor Kristy McBain said the project was developed in consultation with local farming groups and co-operatives, support organisations and major agricultural businesses.

“The saleyards are a key asset for

local farmers to meet and discuss a range of industry trends, issues and opportunities and also a space for socialisation and peer support in challenging times such as these,” Cr McBain said.

The new-look Merimbula Visitor Information Centre at 7-19 Market Street was also opened by Mr McCormack whose government’s \$50,450 investment through the Building Better Regions program help preserve and improve the important community facility.

The centre’s revamp was also supported by the BVSC and the

NSW Government which each contributed \$25,000 to match the federal funding. Merimbula Tourism Inc and the building owner Robert Green have also given support.

“The new Visitor Information Centre will assist tourists and provide travel options, maps and local information to help them explore Merimbula and the beautiful Sapphire coast,” Mr McCormack said.

Bega Valley Shire Council Mayor, Cr Kristy McBain, said the new centre would provide expert advice for up to 50,000 people each year, either walking in or over the phone.

Tathra Headland Walk opened



The new walkway links the Tathra Wharf with the Tathra Headland and Lions Park.

From page 1

“The successful completion of this project fits perfectly with the commitment of our Council and the broader community to establish our area as a ‘must-visit’ destination.”

The Tathra Headland Walkway was awarded more than \$1.2 million in funding as part of the Regional Growth – Environment and Tourism Fund, established under Restart NSW.

The project was the idea of the Tathra Headland Wharf Access Group, which formed in 2014, to lobby for a safe, accessible path linking the historic Tathra Wharf to

the Tathra Headland and Lions Park in the area.

It was put to Council in 2016, which unanimously endorsed the project and sought funding. Bega Cheese is contributing funds to reinstate the Lions Club projects in the area including a second viewing platform with a striking northern aspect.

Meanwhile, the replanting at the Tathra Headland with native species will resume hopefully in the Autumn along with the rain.

The community replanting work to date under the *Green Shoots* program has greatly enhanced the area in time for the opening of the new walkway.

Need help with your NDIS Plan?

Contact our disability team for a confidential discussion.

What will it cost?

You will not have to pay any out of pocket expenses if the services you need are included in your NDIS plan budget.

What do we provide?

Coordination of supports + Plan management

Contact details:

Phone: (02) 6499 2464
Post: PO Box 492, Bega NSW 2550
ndis@begavalley.nsw.gov.au
www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/NDIS

Bega Valley Shire Council's Disability Service is a registered provider of NDIS services.

Contract lifeguards are back

Shire beaches will be patrolled over the summer holidays thanks to the Australian Lifeguard Service (ALS) and volunteers from Surf Life Saving NSW.

Bega Valley Shire has the longest stretch of coastline of any NSW local government area, and lifeguards provide a vital community service to help keep locals and tourists safe as they head to beaches during the holiday period.

Council’s Leisure and Recreation Manager, John Grady, said that specific surf skills, experience and resources are required to provide surf lifeguard services.

“By providing this service over many years, we’ve found that the best option is to engage professional lifeguards to complement the outstanding work done by the Shire’s three volunteer surf lifesaving clubs,” Mr Grady said.

Council is grateful to the Bermagui (Horseshoe Bay), Pambula Beach and Tathra Surf Life Saving Clubs for providing patrols at those location on weekends and public holidays, some of our busiest days at the beach.

In conjunction with the summer lifeguard program, monitoring of beach conditions will be boosted by Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) or drones at Tathra and Pambula beaches through to the end of February 2020.

ALS Manager, Brent Manieri, said that Surf Life Saving NSW will continue to collaborate with the NSW Department of Primary Industries to carry out research into marine hazard surveillance in coastal waters.

“UAVs will also provide an extra set of eyes for greater coverage of other dangers along the coastline such as rip currents and allow a faster response to incidents at these designated locations,” Mr Manieri said.

The locations and timing of the ALS service is based on a risk management approach considering advice and reports from professional lifeguards.



The Australian Lifeguard Service will be back on the Shire’s beaches this summer.

Australian Lifeguard Service 2019/2020

Beach	Patrol Dates	Days of Service	Patrol Times	Number of Lifeguards at Location
Camel Rock	26/12/2019 to 27/01/2020	7 days	9am - 5pm	2
Bermagui (Horse Shoe Bay)	23/12/2019 to 27/01/2020	5 days	9am - 5pm	2
Tathra	23/12/2019 to 27/01/2020	5 days	9am - 5pm	2
Short Point	26/12/2019 to 27/01/2020	7 days	9am - 5pm	2
Bar Beach	26/12/2019 to 27/01/2020	7 days	9am - 5pm	2
Merimbula (Main Beach)	26/12/2019 to 27/01/2020	7 days	9am - 5pm	2
Pambula	23/12/2019 to 27/01/2020	5 days	9am - 5pm	2
Eden (Aslings)	21/12/2019 to 27/01/2020	7 days	9am - 5pm	2



Biosecurity


Invasive Species Management

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

Track Applications

ONLINE


An e-service tool available on Council’s website...



APPLICATION TRACKER!
Allows for the tracking of Development Applications and Complying Development Certificates from lodgement right through to decision.

visit www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au OR scan the QR code

Planning & Development



Signage adds to Bundian Way trails



Interpretive signage has been installed on sections of the Bundian Way. Photo credit: Sapphire Coast Destination Marketing.

Walk in the footsteps of the Aboriginal people from Yuin, Ngarigo, Jaitmathang and Bidawal Country this summer and explore the Whale Dreaming Trail and Story Trail near Eden with new interpretative signage in place.

Bega Valley Shire Council has been working with the Bundian Way Steering Committee and Eden Local Aboriginal Land Council to develop and install the signage which explains the historical background and the importance of the trails and shares the stories of the people who have walked this pathway for thousands of years.

The Bundian Way is an ancient pathway for Aboriginal people that leads between Turemulerrerr (Twofold Bay) and Targangal (Mount Kosciuszko).

Historically, the pathway provided safe passage between the coast and the high country and while the 365km connected walking track is under development, the Whale Dreaming Trail and Story Trail sections are open and waiting for you to explore now.

The Whale Dreaming Trail is an accessible 600m walk through native gardens in Eden leading to a lookout over the stunning Turemulerrerr (Twofold Bay) while the 1.8km Story Trail will take you from Cocora Beach to Quarantine Bay with sweeping coastal views.

Funding for the project was provided by the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet through the Cruise Eden project.

Collaboration key to building brand

We love our beaches on the Sapphire Coast but giving tourists an alternative outing is key to making the industry sustainable, according to the founder of Captain Sponge's Magical Oyster Tours, Brett Weingarth.

Mr Weingarth was one of several industry panellists sharing their insights at the Sapphire Coast Tourism Industry Vision Launch and Networking Event earlier this month at the Kianinny Bush Cottages, Tathra.

"In the morning visitors can have a look at my oyster farm and in the afternoon, go to a goat farm. You can't do that anywhere else," he said, emphasizing the need to build the Sapphire Coast as a year-round destination. He passes on his guests to other tourism businesses, so they can have diverse experiences.

Collaboration was a key theme of talks at the event, which brought together some 100 people working in tourism from across the Shire.

Destination NSW's General Manager Marketing, Jan Hutton, urged local operators to collaborate on an umbrella brand for the region, developing a proud local identity to capitalise on its "phenomenal natural assets." She noted one of the megatrends in tourism internationally was "smaller brands with big stories" and suggested the local industry structure an events calendar to bring people in at the right time of the year.

Partnership and working together, including with council, would be key to getting leverage, Ms Hutton said, adding that the "strategic use of land and how it is utilised for tourism was crucial for the sustainability of the sector."

"The fact that you have a council that is here and recognising the power of economic impact of tourism is



Cr Sharon Tapscott, Deputy Mayor of Bega Valley Shire, and Anthony Osborne of Sapphire Coast Destination Marketing launching the Sapphire Coast Vision and Platform for Growth.

rare," Hutton noted.

Bega Valley Shire's Deputy Mayor, Cr Sharon Tapscott, and Sapphire Coast Destination Marketing's Anthony Osborne launched the Sapphire Coast Vision and Platform for Growth at the event. The strategy document, developed in collaboration with BVSC, aims to help new and future tourism operators develop their businesses and build the region's brand as a unique destination.

To view the document head to <https://www.sapphirecoast.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/SC-TF2030-Vision-Platform-for-Growth.pdf>

Sapphire Coast Vision

The Sapphire Coast is a compelling year-round tourism destination, offering internationally competitive, unique and immersive world-class, nature-based experiences. The towns and villages complement the stunning landscapes with passionate chefs and artisans providing unique connections with the pristine oysters, seafood and produce of the region. The warm and welcoming locals create year-round festivals to celebrate this unique place with visitors and community alike.

JANUARY 7: POUR YOUR HEART OUT

This is NOT your average painting class... Join us at BVRG for a contemporary exploration of action painting. Explore a range of experimental painting styles and techniques from acrylic pouring to building a paint pendulum before combining them to create your own abstract work. Make sure you wear old clothes for this one, it's going to get messy!

PRIMARY: 10am-12pm
SECONDARY: 1pm-4pm



JANUARY 14: KUSAMA-RAMA

Join us as we enter the magical world of Yayoi Kusama. Kusama is known for her polka-dot Pop Art works and mirrored infinity room installations. In this workshop we will be making our own mini infinity box using a variety of materials to build our own abstract dioramas!

PRIMARY: 10am-12pm
SECONDARY: 1pm-4pm



JANUARY 21: POP PORTRAITS

Warhol eat your heart out! Join us to create crazy self-portraits that really POP using a combination of photomedia and acrylic paint.

PRIMARY: 10am-12pm
SECONDARY: 1pm-4pm

- Primary workshops are suitable for children 5-12yrs and cost \$25 for a 2 hour workshop.
- Secondary workshops are suitable for children 13-18yrs and cost \$35 for a 3 hour workshop OR use your NSW Creative kids Voucher!

ALL MATERIALS PROVIDED.
BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL.
FOR MORE INFO AND BOOKING HEAD TO:

gallery.begavalley.nsw.gov.au



Love Our Lakes relaunch



Shout out to this awesome group of locals who regularly help clean up litter along Merimbula Creek and collected a large amount for us on the day.

Merimbula Creek got some much needed attention recently thanks to an amazing group of community organisations, local residents and school children who joined Council's environment team at Berrambol Oval to remove rubbish, plant trees and learn more about what makes our lakes great.

This event marked the relaunch of Council's 'Love Our Lakes' initiative for the summer season and the enthusiastic turnout has marked it a success to build on for future Love Our Lakes community events.

Love Our Lakes aims to increase community and industry awareness about the value of our waterways.

Council's Coastal Management Officer, Rachel Duczynski, said that our waterways are an integral part of our ecosystem and it's vital that we all work together to keep them healthy and litter-free.

"We really appreciate it when the community comes out to lend their support - we know they value our environment as much as we do," Ms Duczynski said.

Council have been working to control weeds along the creek in recent months and now with the help of the public have been able to complete some revegetation near the bridge

and remove a significant amount of litter from the creek.

Council thanks NSW National Parks and Wildlife, Atlas of Life on the Coastal Wilderness, Sapphire Coast Marine Discovery Centre and Shorebird volunteers for running stalls and activities as well as assisting on the day.

Others who had a hand in the success of the clean-up were members of the Bega Local Aboriginal Land Council who helped with plantings, Merimbula Lake oyster farmers who jumped in the creek to remove litter and the Merimbula Knights Cricket Club members who ran a barbecue to keep everyone going!

Keep your eye out on Council's Facebook and Instagram for upcoming Love our Lakes events.

If your school, community group or business would like to be involved in future love our lakes events please send us an email to council@begavalley.nsw.gov.au.



Look out for flying-foxes

Flying-foxes are part of the wonderful biodiversity that thrives here on the Sapphire Coast but in the current drought conditions, they are doing it tough.

Council is alerting the community that people may come across dead or malnourished individuals.

Disease risks from flying-foxes are very low but please do not attempt to handle a flying-fox. If you do find an injured flying-fox call Wildlife Rescue South Coast on 0417 238 921.

Each year around October, flying-foxes return to their usual camps in Bega and Pambula, and sometimes to Candelo, Wallaga Lake and Eden, to play their vital role in forest health by spreading seeds, pollinating forest trees and supporting the survival of over 100 native plants.

However, due to this season's adverse conditions, flying-foxes may display some unusual behaviours including spending daytime hours roosting in backyards and street trees rather than returning to their traditional camps.

Council is asking the community for help - please report daytime sightings of any camps to Andrew Morrison at amorrison@begavalley.nsw.gov.au or 6499 2222. This information will inform a Shire wide flying-fox camp management plan that Council is developing.

The Grey-headed Flying-fox population has declined since European settlement and this species is now listed as a threatened species, protected under State and Federal law.

For further information on Flying foxes including disease risks and ecology go to <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/animals/flyingfoxes.htm>.



Photo credit: Potoroo Palace.

Have you moved?

Do you need to update your address?

use our online form

www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/update-my-address

Extra waste vouchers for summer

Bega Valley Shire Council is sending two free waste vouchers to residents this week to help people manage their extra household waste over the summer bushfire season, and just ahead of the holidays.

The vouchers will arrive in people's mailboxes in the form of a postcard. Each postcard has two vouchers which can be used between now and 31 July 2020.

The Council sends out four free waste vouchers each year, two with mid-year rates notices and a second two prior to Christmas.

Waste Management Coordinator, Joley Vidau, says the pre-Christmas vouchers will help residents keep their gardens clear of unwanted vegetation and recognise everyone's efforts during the year to choose the right bin.

"This year Bega Valley residents have embraced the opportunity to reduce the amount of waste that goes into their red bins by diverting food and garden waste into FOGO bins, recycling into yellow bins and soft plastics to the REDcycle bins at local supermarkets.

"When every household separates their waste at home, it adds up to a lot that doesn't go into landfill - this saves money and is better for the environment," Ms Vidau said.

All Bega Valley tips will open as normal during the holiday period apart from being closed on Christmas Day. It will be business as usual for kerbside collections, regardless of whether your collection day falls on a public holiday.

Residents can download the free Bega Valley

Waste APP for tip opening times, an A-Z list of items that go into each bin, bin collection reminders and other information.

People can also follow [begavalleywasteandrecycling](#) on Facebook for tips and information.

A friendly FOGO reminder

Extra visitors over the holiday season means extra entertaining and extra food waste. To help families manage their food and garden waste Bega Valley Shire Council provides a weekly FOGO (green) bin collection service.

Here are a few reminders on what can and can't go into the FOGO bin.

What can go in the FOGO bin?

- Meat (including bones) and seafood (prawn heads, oyster shells, fish bones)
- Dairy
- Eggshells
- Vegetable and fruit scraps
- Tissues, paper towel, paper napkins and shredded paper
- Takeaway food (no plastic containers please but pizza boxes are okay)
- Tea bags and coffee grinds (no coffee PODS please)
- Baking paper
- Vacuum cleaner dust
- Animal droppings and kitty litter.



Extra waste vouchers will be in mailboxes soon.

What can't go into FOGO?

- Soft or hard plastics – our local supermarkets have REDcycle bins for soft plastics, and hard plastics go in the yellow (recycling) bin.
- Nappies and personal hygiene products – these go into the red (landfill) bin.
- Bottles and glass – these are easily smashed and are hard to remove from FOGO during the organics process.

These should go into recycling or to your local Return and Earn station.

Apply now for Youth Week

Bega Valley Shire Council invites local community groups and organisations to apply for grants of up to \$1,000 for activities to be held during Youth Week in 2020.

National Youth Week is an annual week-long celebration of young people (aged 12–25) throughout Australia and in 2020 it will be celebrated between Wednesday 1 April and Thursday 9 April.

Council is offering Youth Week grants because we want to help young people engage with their communities and contribute to giving youth the resources they need to bring their ideas to fruition.

Community Development Officer, Angelique McKechnie strongly encourages applications from young people themselves as well as from community organisations.

"If you have an idea for a great event or activity that directly benefits young people and you're not sure how to make it happen, please get in contact with us – we'd love to help you!" Ms McKechnie said.

All funded activities should show how young people are actively involved by showcasing their ideas and talents, attending live events,

having their voices heard on issues relevant to them, celebrating their contributions and participating in the fun.

"We're looking for creative ideas that will fill a calendar of events for young people across the Shire during an action-packed Youth Week," Ms McKechnie added.

To be considered for a grant, applicants must be an incorporated association or come under the auspices of one - we can help connect young people with a suitable organisation who can support their initiatives.

The projects funded in 2019 included a dance and body movement activity; a day of youth-based activities at Wallaga Lake; a 'Girls in Media' workshop; an archery workshop; and a festival.

Applications close midnight on Monday 13 January 2020 and successful applicants will be notified in February 2020.

Application guidelines and forms are available at www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/grants or contact Council's Grants Administration Officer, Jayde Rankin or Ange McKechnie on (02) 6499 2222.

Volunteers join fight against Polygala



The GreenShore Connections project is focused on the Lake Street Foreshore Reserve.

Council would like to thank everyone who joined in the fight against Polygala at the Lake Street Foreshore Reserve in Merimbula recently.

Polygala is a tough garden escapee weed but the many dedicated volunteers who turned up to help were tougher and together they hand-pulled 4000 sqm of Polygala seedlings.

Council's Environmental Management Officer, Michael Fiedler, praised the residents and volunteers and their dedication to improving and protecting the natural values of the reserve.

"The people who were there on the day did so much weeding but they

also collected several bags of litter which would have eventually found its way into Merimbula Lake," Mr Fiedler said.

The Bar Beach Kiosk generously supplied coffees and ice-creams for the workers afterwards which was much appreciated.

This event was part of the GreenShore Connections project, funded by NSW Trust and Council will organise more events focused on restoring the reserve in the future.

For more information head to https://www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/cp_themes/default/page.asp?p=DOC-QRC-34-28-80.

Dry weather impacting road maintenance

Due to the prevailing dry conditions, Council is reducing unsealed road maintenance activities in the short-term.

Council's Director Assets and Operations, Anthony McMahon, said the rural water extraction points used by Council to obtain water for road grading activities have dried up or become unusable because of access constraints.

"Although using potable water from towns is possible, and is already being accessed in some locations, it is not ideal as the waterpoints are often far from the grading location, leading to high transport costs and long turnaround times. Additionally, the actual cost of using town water is prohibitive," Mr McMahon said.

"In order not to deplete water any more than is necessary and to share available water with other users and the environment, an operational decision has been made to reduce



Due to the prevailing dry conditions, Council has reducing grading in the short-term.

the grading frequency in some areas based on a risk assessment of the road conditions.

"Dry grading of the network has

been considered but given the dust issues and the inability to compact the loose gravel, this is not a safe or desirable option.

"For these reasons some roads will not get all of their annual scheduled grades until either alternative water sources have been identified or there is sufficient rainfall to re-establish the existing waterpoints.

"Council is actively pursuing other options with relevant agencies and individuals, including the use of brackish water from some of the tidal waterways, access to private dams and using recycled water from our treatment plants," Mr McMahon said.

Monitoring and inspections of the unsealed roads will continue and identify those that are most in need of maintenance, with school bus routes being a priority.

For more information contact Council's Road Maintenance Coordinator Cliff Shipton, on (02) 6499 2222 or email cshipton@begavalley.nsw.gov.au.



Come and learn more about Council's key planning strategies for 2020-2021 and the proposed Special Rate Variation. We are keen to hear your feedback.

Drop in between 2pm - 6pm

- Tuesday 14 January Tura Marrang Library
- Wednesday 15 January Bega Civic Centre
- Thursday 16 January Bermagui Library

On exhibition now

- Revised Delivery Program and Operational Plan
- Fees and Charges
- Swimming Pool Facilities Asset Management Plan
- Financial Strategy
- Long Term Financial Plan
- Swimming Pool Strategy

begavalley.nsw.gov.au/HaveYourSay

IMAGInE Award for South/East Interference

To those familiar with the Bega Valley Regional Gallery, it will come as no surprise to hear that its outstanding work was acknowledged recently with an IMAGInE Award from the Museums and Galleries of NSW for its South/East Interference Vol. II exhibition which showed in September/October this year.

South/East Interference Vol. II offered a sensorially surprising and multi-format exhibition harnessing six mid-career contemporary artists from Indonesia, the Northern Territory and New South Wales.

The exhibition featured the vivacious ceramics of Sri-Lankan-born Ramesh Mario Nithiyendran; shadow puppets by Jumaadi; subversive and comical political paintings by Chayni Henry; Val Wens' performance and documentary photography; paintings by Yolngu artist Gunybi Ganambarr; and Indonesian artist Dadang Christanto whose works honour victims of crimes against humanity.

Through promoting diverse responses to place and identity, audiences were able to engage with the complexities of our Australasian context and challenge cultural parochialism by considering our 'south east' place as a concept beyond our local geographical patch.



BVRG Projects Officer, Jasmin Brown, accepted the award from the NSW Arts Minister, The Hon. Don Harwin MLC.

BVRG Director, Iain Dawson, said that the South/East Interference exhibition tri-series emphasises that our physical location does not restrict or simplify the BVRG program.

"Our exhibitions achieve complexity and challenge conventional perspectives; our audiences respect that and this IMAGInE Award proves that BVRG is setting the standard for other galleries," Mr Dawson said.

The annual IMAGInE awards recognise the people who work in museums and galleries across NSW and the contributions they make. IMAGInE celebrates all institutions and pays homage to those organisations run by volunteers, with limited budgets and minimal resources.



Bega, Beramgui, Eden & Tura Marrang

Follow us on Facebook or visit our website



[begavalleyshirelibrary](https://www.begavalleyshirelibrary) | www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/library

Water Wise measures apply Shire-wide

Bega Valley Shire Council thanks everyone taking steps to save water in the current conditions.

Using water wisely is good practice for all of us to ensure the reliability of our water supplies, to help the environment and save money.

Council's investment in water supply infrastructure and drought system planning has placed the Shire in a relatively good position compared to previous years and other parts of NSW.

However, Council reminds residents and visitors that permanent Water Wise measures apply throughout the Shire, at all times.

You can help to conserve water by watering gardens only when evaporation is lowest – early evening, generally after 5.00pm, nights and early morning.

Avoid watering lawns; they'll

bounce back with rain. Cars and boats should be washed on grassed areas with a bucket, using a hand-held hose only for the final rinse.

Fixed watering systems should be positioned so that water doesn't end up on footpaths, driveways or roads.

Indoors, make sure taps are turned off, take shorter showers and use the toilet half-flush.

More Water Wise tips and resources are available on Council's website.

Residents with concerns or questions about water use can contact Council on (02) 6499 2222.

Council's Drought Management Action Plans are available at www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/Water.

Right: : Water gardens after 5pm or early in the morning to be Water Wise.



Christmas hours

Over Christmas and New Year many of Council's offices and services will be affected by closures or a change in opening hours as summarised below.

Bega Office

Council's Bega office will close on Tuesday 24 December at 3.00pm and reopen on Thursday 2 January at 9.00am. The after-hours telephone will be staffed for emergencies, please call 6499 2222.

Waste Services

All tips will be closed Christmas Day only. Otherwise, tips are open as usual over the holiday period. Check operating hours at www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/waste or on the Bega Valley Waste App.

Household bin collections will happen as normal.

Children's Services

- Bandara Preschool closes at 12 noon on Friday 20 December and reopens at 8.00am on Tuesday 28 January.
- Bandara Long Day Care closes at 12 noon on Friday 20 December and reopens at 7.45am on

Tuesday 14 January.

- Bandara Afterschool Care closes at 5.45pm on Wednesday 18 December and reopens on Wednesday 29 January.
- Eden Preschool closes at 12 noon on Friday 20 December and reopens at 8:00am on Tuesday 28 January.
- Eden Long Day Care closes at 12 noon on Friday 20 December and reopens at 7.30am on Tuesday 14 January.
- Sapphire Mobile Preschool closes at 3.00pm on Friday 20 December and reopens at 9.00am on Wednesday 29 January.

Bega Valley Shire Libraries

All libraries at Bermagui, Bega, Tura Marrang and Eden will close at 3.00pm on Tuesday 24 December and will reopen on Friday 3 January at 9.30am.

The School Holiday Program for kids, including the Summer Reading Club will run at all four libraries and boasts a variety of entertaining activities throughout January. For details and bookings visit www.begavalleyshirelibrary.eventbrite.com.au.

Bega Valley Regional Gallery

Currently showing Weapons For The Solider,

the Gallery will close at 4.00pm on Tuesday 24 December to reopen at 10.00am on Thursday 2 January 2020.

School holiday workshops for kids will run at the Gallery in January – more information at <https://gallery.begavalley.nsw.gov.au>.

Bega Valley Regional Learning Centre

The Centre will close at 3.00pm on Tuesday 24 December and reopen on Thursday 2 January at 8.30am.

Swimming Pools

Council managed pools will close at 5.00pm on Tuesday 24 December, close Christmas Day and reopen on 26 December. Please check with your local pool for public holiday opening hours or Council's website at www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/SwimmingPools.

Bega Valley Commemorative Civic Centre

The Civic Centre will close on Friday 20 December at 3.00pm and reopen on Monday 13 January 2020.

Bega Valley Support Services

Tathra and District Bushfire Recovery will be closed from Tuesday 24 December with normal hours resuming from 9.00am on Thursday 2 January.

Snap Send Solve

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



Runway extension proposal on exhibition

The proposed extension to the Merimbula Airport runway has taken a significant step forward with the Development Application, including a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), now on public exhibition.

Aviation experts Lambert and Rehbein, with a team including pilots, engineers and runway specialists, have led the plan development for the runway extension and Council is inviting and encouraging the community to provide their feedback on the proposal.

Council's Director Assets and Operations, Anthony McMahon, said the aim of the project is to allow a greater range of aircraft and airlines to provide both passenger and freight services to the region.

"It is important to note that the proposed additions are to be used for the commencement of take-offs only. As a result, aircraft will complete their take-off and land in the current locations and consequently the flight paths and protected airspaces around the airport will not need to change," Mr McMahon said.

"The successful completion of the extension,

which is consistent with the current approved master plan for the site, would assist in the ongoing growth of passenger numbers.

"The application includes the EIS, prepared by local firm NGH Environmental. This comprehensive assessment identifies potential impacts and their mitigations, including a noise management plan, and is the culmination of detailed, expert investigations and community consultation," he said.

Given the scale of the project, the application is classed as regionally significant development, with the Southern Joint Regional Planning Panel being the consent authority.

To view the application and EIS and to provide feedback visit www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/haveyoursay. Hardcopies of the EIS are also be available for viewing at the Tura-Murrang Library and Bega Valley Shire Council offices in Bega. The exhibition period will close on 20 January 2020.

The work around the runway extension is being conducted in tandem with the terminal upgrade that is nearing completion.



The Development Application for the proposed extension to the Merimbula Airport runway, including a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), is on public exhibition.

The Merimbula Airport Runway Extension project is being jointly funded by the NSW Government and Bega Valley Shire Council.

Council Meeting wrap up

Changed parking in Merimbula

A number of recommendations from by the Bega Valley Local Traffic Committee with input from the Merimbula Chamber of Commerce were adopted by Council. This will result in more parking along Market Street and parking time limits have changed in a number of places around Merimbula. People are advised to please take note of changed signage.

Kalaru to Tathra bike track

The tender for the next stage has been awarded to local contractors, John Michelin and Son.

Bemboka Water Restrictions

Council decided not to introduce water restrictions on the Bemboka supply noting that level 1 restrictions in this system would target a demand reduction of less than 0.3% of water currently being released from Cochrane Dam. However, Council will write to relevant Ministers to ask for modifications to the current water management arrangements for non-Council controlled urban water sources such as Brogo Dam and Cochrane Dam, in order to increase urban water supply security.

Further, Council will facilitate a forum with other water users across the Shire to understand system wide water security improvement opportunities.

Integrated Planning and Reporting documents and Draft Swimming Pools Strategy

A number of key strategic planning documents have been placed on public exhibition as well as the Draft Swimming Pools Strategy, which was endorsed by Council with an amendment on page 18 to include "plus interest on the invested income." The exhibition period ends 24 January 2020.

Draft land strategies on public exhibition

Council resolved to place the Draft Commercial Land Strategy and the Draft Residential Land Strategy on public exhibition until 16 February 2020 and invite the community to Have Your Say.

Alcohol free zone in Biamanga

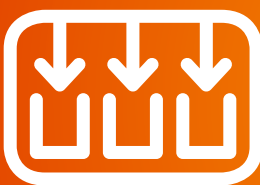
Council resolved to establish an alcohol-free zone at the Aboriginal Cultural Area in Biamanga National Park for a four-year period.

Next Meeting 29 January 2020

Council Chambers,
Biamanga Room, Bega
Valley Commemorative Civic
Centre, Bega @ 2pm

Watch Live

Each Council meeting is live
streamed for you to watch
on your desktop, tablet or
mobile at www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/councilmeetings



Community Recycling Centres

Waste matters

Drop off your household
problem waste for recycling

FREE
SERVICE

Bega Valley Community Recycling Centre is located at:
Merimbula Waste & Recycling Depot
Red Hill Road off Sapphire Coast Drive



These items are accepted:



Paint



Gas bottles and
fire extinguishers



Fluoro globes
and tubes



Household and
car batteries



Smoke
detectors



Motor oils and
other oils

www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/waste

Connecting Through Memory celebration

Our precious moments and events are caught in a memory and the recent *Connecting Through Memory* event gave everyone, young and old, opportunities to create many more positive memories together, and a special photographic banner display about this pioneering program will be on view at the South East Regional Hospital in coming months.

The celebration was a huge success with about 50 preschool children from Bandara and Eden Early Learning Centres joining with their co-participants at the Bega Library to share their *Connecting Through Memory* experiences through performances, displays and craft activities.

One of the highlights was live music from program participant and local country singer Ross Lowe.

Connecting Through Memory, believed to be the first of its kind in Australia, supports people who may be experiencing some memory loss or social isolation to remain engaged and active as valued members of their communities.

The *Connecting Through Memory* program started in May 2019 and has helped push aside some of the stigma around ageing and memory loss that older community members and their carers face every day.

“Children have an innate respect for older people. They are naturally inclusive in that they show us how to look past any physical or cognitive decline, which is why this program is so important to our community,” Ms Reynolds said.

Council’s Programs and Partnerships Officer, Scott

Baker said that the children see participants as grandparent figures who will sing songs, make craft, tell stories and laugh with them.

“Combating isolation, loneliness and depression in people who may be experiencing some memory loss has been a significant benefit coming out of this ground-breaking program,” Mr Baker said.

“Our tailored program has boosted the self-esteem of participants by sharing and celebrating their memories and providing opportunities to create positive memories based around meaningful activities with the preschool children.”

Participant Ross Lowe reported receiving a huge boost from the appreciation he received from children for his musical talent despite his initial doubts that he had anything of value to contribute.

After a recent session at Eden Early Learning Centre where he entertained the children with his singing and guitar, Mr Lowe said, “It’s really wonderful when people appreciate you and what you do, I think the kids loved it today and so did I - it’s good for all of us.”

Importantly, the *Connecting Through Memory* program has been designed in such a way that it can be rolled out to other libraries, early childhood learning centres and councils.

Connecting Through Memory has been such a success and seen so many positive outcomes for older community members, their carers, children and educators, that the library is actively investigating funding sources to see its



The program is the first of its kind in Australia.

continuation into 2020.

“Our libraries are committed to forging Intergenerational relationships in our communities – look out for us in Bermagui next year,” Mr Baker added.

You can view a short video about the *Connecting Through Memory* program at <https://www.facebook.com/begavalleyshirelibrary/videos>.

Connecting Through Memory is funded by Dementia Australia’s Dementia Friendly Communities Program.

Council develops a recovery support template

Bega Valley Shire Council (BVSC), with the aid of grant funding from the Office of Emergency Management (OEM), recently commissioned consultants ‘Risk Frontiers’ to undertake a retrospective evaluation of the Tathra and District and Yankees Gap District Bushfire Recovery Support Service (TDRSS).

The evaluation concluded that the RSS was a success, that the community acknowledged the service was instrumental in the recovery process and that it improved the community’s confidence in BVSC’s ability to respond to natural disasters.

The TDRSS was initially established as a temporary service following the Tathra and District fires of March 2018 to ensure community members significantly impacted by this natural disaster could access the recovery support they required.

The service directly employed recovery workers to support individuals and provided a range of activities designed to build community resilience. In August 2018, following the Yankees Gap fire, the TDRSS was extended to address the needs of communities in Bemboka, Numbugga and Brogo.

The fact that the service was embedded in the community was undoubtedly a major factor in its success, however, having embedded itself in the Tathra community, it was limited in its ability to service those effected by the Yankees Gap district fires some 50 kilometres away.

Despite this, the Yankees Gap residents reported a high degree of satisfaction at the commitment and efforts of the TDRSS.

The evaluation also reported on some of the barriers to recovery experienced in both the Tathra and



Caralyn, Anne and June of the Recovery Support Service.

Yankees Gap communities, including ongoing mental health issues and obstacles to the re-building process along with perceived differences in the way each community was served by the TDRSS and issues with the availability of recovery support funding.

The independent evaluation was a requirement of OEM grant funding and a copy has been provided to the

Department of Justice.

The report recommended that “the *Recovery Support Service* model developed by BVSC be utilised for future similar disaster events to improve access to recovery services and resilience and, where appropriate, be imbedded within local government to facilitate information sharing.”

Contact us

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

Follow us

 [BegaValleyShire](#)

 [begavalleyshirecouncil](#)

 www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au

Subscribe

Subscribe and you’ll receive **Council News** in your inbox. This publication will occur in the week immediately following the Council meetings (generally every three weeks).



begavalley.nsw.gov.au/councilnews