

Bega Valley Shire Council News

Issue 04 - Tuesday 17 April 2018

connecting council and the community

Funding dream for Shire

Children and volunteers are the big winners of a \$974,677 funding allocation to Bega Valley Shire Council announced recently through the NSW Government's Stronger Country Communities Fund.

The Member for Bega, Andrew Constance was joined by Bega Valley Shire Council Mayor, Kristy McBain, in making the announcement that is set to breathe life into a number of local community projects.

"This is fantastic news for residents right across the Shire and I thank Council for bringing these projects forward for consideration," Mr Constance said.

"Our community has been calling out for upgrades to local facilities and I'm thrilled these can now be carried out."

Cr McBain said that it was gratifying to see the variety of projects that will be activated to improve local facilities and services.

"It is particularly exciting to know that this funding will most benefit our children, volunteers and some of our smaller townships," Cr McBain said.

"Community hall kitchens, village

playgrounds, Bandara Children's Services, the Eden Log Cabin and the Wallaga Lake boardwalk, as part of the Great South Coast Walk, will all receive significant upgrades."

The Stronger Country Communities Fund was established to invest in infrastructure projects in regional NSW communities to improve the lives of residents and enhance the attractiveness of these areas as vibrant places to live and work.

The fund is part of the NSW Government's investment of \$1.6 billion in regional infrastructure to support growing regional centres, bolster local economies and support services in communities.

Council's Grant Funding Submissions Coordinator, Cecily Hancock, said that staff are now busy shortlisting projects ready for round two applications that close on 4 May.

More coverage pages 4&5

Right: Little Hamish and Clio and Bandara's Kamilla Grubescic will soon enjoy new facilities in the Rainbow Room (0-2 years) following the very welcome Stronger Country Communities Fund announcement.



Gallery architect announced

The proposed redevelopment of the Bega Valley Regional Gallery (BVRG) has taken another significant step forward, with the announcement today that Sibling Architecture has been selected to design the upgrade to the facility.

The design will play a key role in Council's application to the Regional Cultural Fund.

BVRG Director, Iain Dawson, said that

Sibling Architecture is a specialist firm with extensive experience working in the arts and cultural arena and have offices in Sydney and Melbourne.

"Sibling is a well-respected firm with a proven record of creating art galleries that invite communities in and encourage strong engagement with audiences. We are so excited to work with them to deliver a vision for the BVRG," Mr Dawson said.

"They are also familiar with the region, having worked closely with the Old Bega Hospital Redevelopment Committee to produce their concept designs. Sibling have also committed to partnering with local firms to deliver a strong project that reflects who we are.



Continued Page 10

The Bega Valley Regional Gallery redevelopment design will be undertaken by Sibling Architecture.

LEST WE FORGET - 25 APRIL

Anzac Day

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.*

Australian troops storm ashore in the first assault wave to hit Balikpapan on the southeast coast of oil-rich Borneo. July 1945

Mental health support after fires

Bega Valley Shire Council is very appreciative of \$250,000 in funding for extra counselling services aimed at residents affected by the Tathra/Reedy Swamp bushfire, announced by the Federal Government recently.

Senator Jim Molan, Patron Senator for Eden-Monaro, was in Bega to make the announcement.

South Eastern NSW Primary Health Network (PHN) will receive the funding to meet the need arising from the trauma and loss associated with the bushfire.

The funding will boost the capacity of local services, providing counselling to fire impacted people in the short to medium term.

Bega Valley Shire Council Mayor, Cr Kristy McBain, said that Council wholeheartedly thanks the Federal Government for their support of our community.

“I am grateful that all levels of government have responded so quickly; State Government funding will help us clean up the physical landscape and this Federal Government funding will help with the psychological scars, including for those people experiencing survival guilt.

“Rebuilding homes and people’s lifestyles will be a long process and this funding is very welcome to enable those affected in the Tathra and Reedy Swamp areas to get help,” she said.

Kristina Brenner, Council’s Manager Community Connections, stated that the Federal Government’s funding via the Primary Health



Senator Jim Molan (centre) was joined by Peter Murray (PHN) and Mayor Kristy McBain for the announcement of \$250,000 in Federal Government funding for extra counselling services following the bushfire disaster.

Network would assist local services to connect with more people, including those who have not yet reached out for support.

“I particularly encourage families, friends and neighbours to reach out to individuals who may be isolated or vulnerable and let them know that support is available,” Ms Brenner said.

If you have been impacted by the Tathra/Reedy Swamp fire and would like counselling assistance, please contact The Recovery Centre at the BVSC offices which is open every day and can be contacted on (02) 6499 2475.

For more information visit www.emergency.nsw.gov.au or www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/tathra.

KEY Contacts


for those impacted by the bushfire

Recovery Centre (at the Bega Valley Shire Council offices) - 6499 2475

- Bega Valley Shire Council**
 www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/tathra
 www.facebook.com/begavalleyshirecouncil
- Bega Valley Waste and Recycling**
 www.facebook.com/BegaValleyWasteandRecycling
- Office of Emergency Management**
 www.emergency.nsw.gov.au



Tathra & Reedy Swamp Fire Recovery Centre



Ask for Help!

Coping with a major personal crisis

Physical and emotional effects may be longer lasting than you think, It's ok to ask for help!

Emergencies by their very nature are disruptive and can be very stressful. What you, your family or friends have experienced is a unique and personal event. It's normal to have a range of feelings in reaction to an abnormal situation like this.

With time, and some simple steps, most people will cope well with the stress of the emergency. You may be seeking information about:

- What you might be feeling
- Physical reactions you might have
- Staying healthy
- People who might need more help
- Children's reaction
- Family and social relationships
- Making it easier to cope
- Seeking support

Some people may need additional help to get through. For further information about some of these reactions and suggested ways to cope after an emergency go to: www.redcross.org.au/get-help/emergencies/resources-about-disasters

Or visit the Fire Recovery Centre, Bega Council Offices, Zingel Place
Open: Monday - Friday 10am - 4pm
Centre Hotline: (02) 6499 2475

Eden Waste Depot to open Sundays

Council has acted on concerns expressed following the decision to close the Eden Waste Depot to the public to enable the sorting and disposal of fire damaged asbestos and demolition debris stemming from the bushfire disaster.

As a result the site will remain open to the public for the disposal of household waste, garden waste and recyclables on Sundays between 7.30am and 4.30pm.

The landfill area of the site will be closed on Sundays and no large tipping vehicles will be permitted on site.

In order to facilitate this position, Council has advised those involved in the Tathra and Reedy Swamp bushfire cleanup that no disposal of demolition waste will be permitted at Eden on Sundays.

Council's Waste and Recycling Manager, Toby Browne, said the key reason for closing the Eden site was to ensure public safety and has asked everyone to be mindful of the challenges a disaster of this magnitude brings for the people directly affected, the broader community and recovery agencies.

“There will a large number of heavy plant and truck movements during the clean-up process, with potential



Recovery Coordinator, Euan Ferguson and Bega Valley Shire Council Waste and Recycling Manager, Toby Browne, inspect an air monitoring device installed at the Eden Waste Depot to ensure the safety of the public.

queueing, and trucks will have to undertake manoeuvres on the access road to reverse to the tipping sites," Mr Browne said.

“Traffic management was a key factor when authorities made the decision to restrict access to the public. Additionally, there will be large quantities of asbestos impacted waste coming into the site, and while the risks are being managed, having members of the general public on site is clearly an avoidable risk.

“Council is managing asbestos according to strict SafeWork NSW and NSW EPA requirements, with control measures in place to ensure the the safety of staff, contractors and the general public and the protection of the environment.

“Council will also have continuous air monitoring on the Eden site to demonstrate the disposal activities are undertaken safely.

"We absolutely recognise the inconvenience to the Eden community, but we ask that people

consider the needs of property owners directly affected by the fire, and the immediate need to get those properties cleaned up swiftly and safely.

“Due to the nature of the event, we obviously didn’t have time to consult widely with the Eden community regarding the use of the landfill at the Eden Depot, and authorities needed to make a quick and informed decision about how to best dispose of this waste in our Shire,” Mr Browne said.

Merimbula Waste Depot is the nearest alternative facility to Eden and is open five days a week from 7.30am to 4.30pm. The two days it closes are Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Residents of Tathra and Reedy Swamp affected by the fires can still take trailer loads of waste to the Wallagoot Transfer Station at no cost (Wallagoot will remain open 7 days a week until 30 April).

For more information please contact the Council waste management team on (02) 6499 2222 or follow the Waste and Recycling Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/BegaValleyWasteandRecycling/> for regular updates.

Fees and charges relief

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

Last week's resolution of Council means that the General Manager is now able to authorise exemptions from water and sewer charges; waste fees; Development Application, Complying Development and associated fees; and interest on general rates instalments.

The General Manager will also be utilising her authority under the Local Government Act to issue Fire Works Authorisation Certificates for demolition works if required.

General Manager, Leanne Barnes, said that while the local community has displayed unbelievable resilience both during and in the aftermath of the event, it is vital that Council can provide a level of surety for those impacted moving forward.

“With many people set to remain displaced for the foreseeable future, it is absolutely vital that we do anything we can to help them get back on their feet,” Ms Barnes said.

***“We must help people get
back on their feet”
- Leanne Barnes***

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

“The intent of all fee and charge waivers is to ensure that Council works to assist residents maximise their rebuild funds.

“These measures will represent a proportion of the additional, unbudgeted costs to Council for the response and recovery activities, some of which may be recoverable and some will be a key part of Council’s role in the recovery process over the next 12 to 18 months.

"All costs, foregone income and other items will be captured in the recovery process and form part of the ongoing reporting on this incident," Ms Barnes said.

For more information visit www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/tathra or contact Council on (02) 6499 2222.

Mayoral Appeal Fund

Tathra Fire Emergency

Appeal Facts

Overview

In response to the Tathra Fire Emergency that took place on Sunday 18 March, a Mayoral Appeal Fund has been launched.

The community support of donated items has been overwhelming and extremely generous to date. Charity and volunteer organisations have now reached capacity for item donation. Therefore, the Mayoral Appeal Fund is the preferred method to assist the Tathra community.

How it works

All donated funds are held in a separate trust account. The management and distribution of these funds will be overseen by an Independent Advisory Panel chaired by the Mayor Cr. Kristy McBain.

The Panel will ensure all funds are distributed equitably and consistently to those who are directly affected by the fire emergency, in compliance with the Commonwealth charitable law requirements.

How to donate

Financial donations are tax deductible and can be made via:

- \$ Electronic bank transfer - **BSB:** 012525/ **Account:** 837535154
- \$ In person at ANZ Bega Branch
- \$ Credit Card over the phone, call (02)6499 2345 (between 9:00am-4:30pm)

Donations made over the phone will receive a tax invoice via email. Donations made via bank transfer will be able to provide their transaction details to the Australian Taxation Office.

Contacts

For further information please visit our website www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au or contact Council on 6499 2222

We are here to help!

STRONGER COUNTRY COMMUNITIES FUND

Children among the big winners

The children and educators at Bandara Children's Services are among the big beneficiaries following the Stronger Country Communities fund announcement.

Funding of \$163,700 will enable a revitalisation program to commence that is set to include flood remediation activities, outdoor landscaping, the creation of an outdoor storage shed and improvements to the Rainbow Room (0-2 years).

Council's Children's Services Coordinator, Lynn Bray, said when finalised the project will result in the creation of friendly spaces that are accessible and practical.

"We are passionate about providing the best possible learning environment of the children and this very welcome funding will assist greatly," Ms Bray said.

Bandara offers long day care and preschool programs for children up to 5 years and after school care for primary school children.

For all enrolment enquiries phone the Business Support Officer on 6499 2118 or email children@begavalley.nsw.gov.au



Group time in the Wombat Room (2-4 years) with teacher Emma Backhouse.

New roof for log cabin



The Eden Log Cabin is set for a facelift.

The iconic Eden Log Cabin will receive attention using \$141,136 of the Stronger Country Communities grant.

The cabin's roof is constructed from asbestos cement shingles, which have been deteriorating and now the roof will be replaced with regard to the heritage value of the building.

The kitchen will also receive new stainless steel benches, flooring and appliances.

Council's Cemeteries and Halls Officer, Karen Terwin, said that an improved kitchen and new roof will encourage an increase in the range of events and activities that can be held at the Log Cabin and

allow the space to continue to be an important social hub.

"The upgrade will provide Eden and surrounding areas with a facility unlike anything currently available to the general public in Eden," Ms Terwin said.

"The property includes beautiful gardens where wedding ceremonies and photos have taken place in the past and a non-domestic kitchen will allow entire catered functions to be held at the facility."

To book the Eden Log Cabin for your next event head to www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au and search venues for hire.

New kitchens bring new opportunities

Kitchen facilities at the community halls in Kiah, Pambula, Tanja and Wolumla will be refurbished to the tune of \$143,636 thanks to the Stronger Country Communities fund.

The planned upgrades will include replacing old joinery and benches with full stainless steel benches; and the installation of double sinks and hand basins, new flooring, fridges and ovens.

Council's Cemeteries and Halls Officer, Karen Terwin, said that

upgraded kitchens will attract a broader range of hirers and users, increasing the scope of these important community spaces.

"Small food producers in these areas will be able to safely and legally produce foods for sale at local markets and for wholefood organisations, providing new employment opportunities and growth within the region," Ms Terwin said.

"Not-for-profit community groups could also potentially provide further services to those in need."

New members are always welcome to join the various community hall committees across the Shire.

For more information on Council's community halls, contact Karen Terwin on 6499 2222.



Wolumla Hall committee members Warren Howard (President), Susana Howard (Treasurer) and Keith Frew (Secretary) and Council's Karen Terwin have welcomed the funding announcement that will see an upgrade to the hall's kitchen.

STRONGER COUNTRY COMMUNITIES FUND

Modern playgrounds for villages

Some of the Shire's smaller communities can look forward to upgraded playgrounds with contemporary equipment thanks to \$300,705 from the Stronger Country Communities fund.

The four playgrounds set to see significant improvements are Bemboka's Bicentennial Park, Cobargo's Apex Park, the Wyndham Memorial Park and Ray Whyman Reserve at Mogareeka.

Council's Recreation and Natural Assets Coordinator, John Turville, said that the Mogareeka playground was damaged in the 2016 East Coast Low storm event and that the other three playgrounds were due for renewal.

"It is exciting that this funding will enable us to move forward with the improvements," Mr Turville said.

"The renewal of the playgrounds will provide our local children with access to functional, safe and imaginative play spaces and will provide areas for families and community groups to gather in a social setting.

"Depending on the location, revamping the playgrounds will also include fencing, picnic tables and shelters."



Members of the Wyndham community have been discussing options for upgrading their playground with Council staff and the town's children can look forward to a twenty-first century playground as they celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Wyndham Public School later in 2018.

Above: Sophie and Tegan Umback, Colleen Stewart and Christine Nicolson are looking forward to the upgrade of the Wyndham Memorial Park.

Right: Apex Park Cobargo.



Stronger Country Communities Funding Summary

Village Playgrounds - \$300,705

- Bicentennial Park (Bemboka)
- Apex Park (Cobargo)
- Wyndham Memorial Park
- Ray Whyman Reserve (Mogareeka)

Great South Coast Walk - \$225,500

Bandara Children's Services - \$163,700

Community Halls - \$143,636

- Kiah
- Pambula
- Tanja
- Wolumla

Eden Log Cabin - \$141,136

First steps for Great South Coast Walk

Stage one of the Great South Coast Walk will get off the design board on the back of a \$225,500 funding allocation under the Stronger Country Communities Fund.

The very welcome cash injection will provide Council with the opportunity to work with the community towards realising a vision of a public walking track connecting Wallaga Lake and Tathra.

There are two elements to these proposed works that will result in a different experience for users.

The first involves the replacement of a key section of the popular Wallaga Lake Boardwalk, which was irreparably damaged in the 2016 East Coast Low storm event and eventually decommissioned.

The replacement section will be further inland and take the form of a low level structure, running for



A key section of the Wallaga Lake Boardwalk damaged during the 2016 East Coast Low will be replaced.

approximately 200 metres.

Wallaga Lake is intermittently open and closed to the ocean and high water levels can prevent walkers from safely navigating the lake foreshore without a boardwalk.

The second element will be the construction of a gravel pathway that will extend access from the boardwalk onto Camel Rock, with

the aim of minimising disturbance to nearby cultural sites of significance to Aboriginal people.

Seating and shelters will enhance the walk and improve access for all residents and visitors.

Council's Recreation and Natural Assets Coordinator, John Turville, said that the boardwalk won't necessarily be replaced with

another timber one.

"We'll be looking at a range of materials, particularly surfaces that will allow daylight to penetrate underneath to support plant re-growth," Mr Turville said.

For more information on the Great South Coast Walk, visit <http://greatsouthcoastwalk.net>

Bega intersection closed

The intersection of Auckland and Upper Streets in Bega will be closed to all traffic through to Wednesday 25 April.

The closure is in place to enable Bega Valley Shire Council's Pavement and Water teams to carry out necessary water main and pavement renewals at the intersection in the most efficient manner possible.

The work has been programmed to coincide with school holidays to ensure traffic disruptions are kept to a minimum.

Traffic detours are in place for the duration of works, and traffic signals are turned off, with vehicle access available for local residents and businesses only.

Pedestrian access around the site has been provided.

Emergency services have been notified of the road closures.

For more information contact Council's Projects Coordinator, James Downes, on 6499 2222.



The intersection of Auckland and Upper Streets in Bega is presently closed.

Waste matters CleanOut your household chemicals the right way



You can drop off:

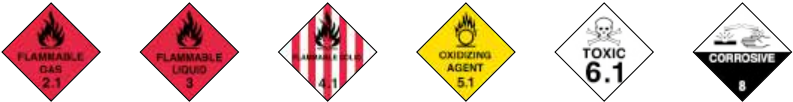
- Paints
- Garden chemicals
- Motor oils and fuels
- Batteries
- Gas bottles
- Fire extinguishers
- Pool chemicals
- Hobby chemicals
- Acids and alkalis
- Fluorescent globes and tubes

**FREE
SERVICE**

At these locations between 8am and 2:30pm:

Saturday 7 July 2018	Pambula Merimbola Street Carpark (rear of shops)
Sunday 8 July 2018	Bega Saleyards, Kerrisons Lane (south of town on bypass road)
Saturday 15 September 2018	Bermagui Dickinson park, Lamont Street

Including materials with the following logos:



Only household quantities accepted 20kg or 20L maximum container size. Please transport your materials carefully and remain in your vehicle at the collection site.

For more information call the Environment Line on 131 555 or visit www.cleanout.com.au



Access to new ideas from great minds

Bega Civic Centre will be dedicating a live stream of the Sydney Writers' Festival, as a special fundraiser for the Tathra and District Fire, with all proceeds raised to go into the Mayoral Appeal Fund.

From 9.45am on Friday May 4, Bega Valley guests can watch the headline events from Australia's best-loved forum for literature, ideas and storytelling as they happen from the Biamanga Room and Foyer on the first floor of the Civic Centre.

The event will be hosted by About the Book convener Gordon Beattie and bestselling Tathra author Melissa Pouliot over three days.

The live stream will feature authors such Jane Harper (best selling author of The Dry and Force of Nature); host of The Book Club Jennifer Byrne; Rockwiz host Julia Zemiro; and highly decorated journalists Kerry O'Brien, Leigh Sales and Peter Greste. Popular podcast host Richard Fidler from Conversations, who has written and co-written two books, is also part of the live stream.

The Novellas will also perform during the Bega event and Candelo Books will have a pop-up bookstore in the Civic Centre.

Venue coordinator, Georgina Pearce, said although Live & Local was free to attend, organisers would encourage festival guests to donate to the Tathra and District Fire Mayoral Appeal Fund.

"We'll also be asking the Sydney organisers to mention our appeal for the Tathra community during the live stream," Ms Pearce said.

"It is exciting that technology allows the Bega Valley community to participate in the Sydney Writers' Festival from their home region.

"The Festival brings the world's finest authors and esteemed thinkers to Bega in real time through this Live & Local project and people can text their questions to the panels during discussions.

"We did this for the first time last year and everyone really enjoyed the opportunity to be part of the panel discussions and presentations by their favourite writers, foreign correspondents, television hosts and other literary greats."

**Live & Local in the Bega Valley is made possible through support from the Bega Valley Shire Council, University of Wollongong Australia (Bega Campus), South East Arts, Candelo Books, About the Book, mp/media solutions and About Regional.*

For further information please contact Georgina Pearce on 6499 2462.

**Commemorative
Civic Centre**
Zingel Place, Bega

Bega Valley

Commemorative
Civic Centre

Zingel Place, Bega
www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/Civiccetre

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

Six new citizens welcomed to the Shire

A Citizenship ceremony was held last Monday in the Bega Valley Commemorative Civic Centre, welcoming six new Australian Citizens.

The citizens were presented with a Certificate of Australian Citizenship in front of their family members and friends in the Council Chambers.

Bega Valley Shire Council Mayor, Cr Kristy McBain, congratulated the newest citizens on behalf of the local community and wished them well as they start their new lives as Australians.

"Choosing to become an Australian citizen is an important expression of loyalty and commitment to our country," Cr McBain said.

To apply to become an Australian Citizen, contact the Department of Home Affairs on 131 880 or visit <http://www.immi.gov.au/>



New Australian citizens Chloe Garrs, Shannon Woloshyn, Flordeliza Greal, Kunya Goddard, Siriwan Namlee and Suzanne Milligan, with Mayor Cr Kristy McBain (centre) following last Monday's Citizenship ceremony.

Award for library team

Our library service recently received a national Local Government 'High Achiever' award in recognition for their quality programs that support diversity and engagement in our communities across the Shire.

Councillor, Jo Dodds nominated the Bega Valley Shire Library for the award which is determined by LG Focus, Australia's National Local Government online newspaper.

"In particular, the two programs that stood out for me were the Bega Valley Autism Lab and the Wallaga Lake genealogy photographic digitisation project," Cr Dodds said.

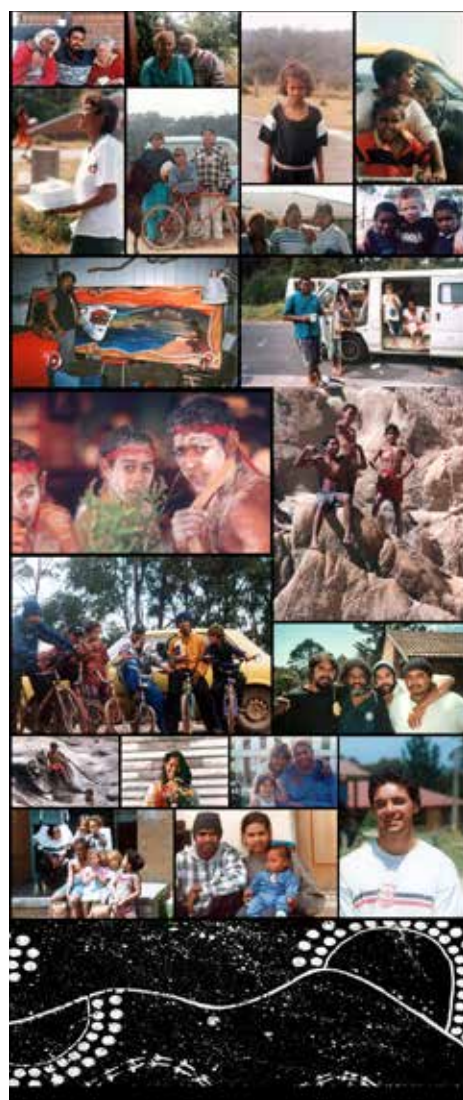
Since inception in 2016 and after mother Monika Ryan approached the library for support, the Bega Valley Autism Lab has gone from strength to strength and now runs as a stand-alone, sustainable community program.

The Wallaga Lake Genealogy Photographic project is a unique and extensive collection of over 400 photographs of First Nations people living at Wallaga Lake and Bermagui.

The photographs were all taken by Bermagui based artist and photographer, Penny Jones over a period of nearly thirty years, of the families living on Djiringanj country, part of the Yuin nation.

Thanks to a partnership between the library and South East Arts, some of the photographs were made into an exhibition, which has been on display at libraries over the summer.

Council's Programs and Partnerships Officer, Scott Baker said that



The Wallaga Lake Genealogy Photographic project is a unique and extensive collection of over 400 photographs of First Nations people living at Wallaga Lake and Bermagui.

the project has benefited the community by providing a central access point for these significant photographs.

"The digitisation project has been well-received by the community and the photos have already been used to support significant events," Mr Baker said.

What's on... LOCAL EVENTS

www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/events

Have your event listed on Council's Local Events Calendar

- **Youth Week 13-22 April 2018**
Colour Run, Hip Hop, Hula Hoop, Chair Chalk, Pool Party, My Town Photo Treasure Hunt and Archery + MORE
Visit the Local Events calendar for more info
- **Cobargo Market Day**
Every Saturday starting at 8am, Cobargo Village.
- **Clubs Race Day**
6 May, noon - 5.30pm
Sapphire Coast Turf Club, Kalaru
- **Bega Valley Shire Council Meeting**
Tuesday 1 May 2018, 2pm Bega Valley Commemorative Civic Centre



Scan the QR code with your smartphone to go directly to the Local Events Calendar
Don't have a reader? Visit your app store to download one

Careers at Council

Current Vacancies

- Children's Services Trainee (Adult) – Aboriginal identified: Closes 20/4/18
- Communication and Design Assistant: Closes 20/4/18
- Engineering Design Coordinator: Closes 25/4/2018

begavalley.mercury.com.au

Sign up to receive job alerts

begavalley.nsw.gov.au/careersatcouncil

Council Meeting wrap up

Mayoral Minutes

Mayor Cr Kristy McBain delivered three Mayoral Minutes at the outset of the meeting.

The first centred on the bushfire emergency during which she formally extended the Council's support and thoughts to those impacted; extended Council's thanks to all the emergency services and agencies who responded; thanked those involved in the recovery process; and formally acknowledged the offers of support and donations of goods and financial support.

The Mayor also requested a change of date (from 2 May to 1 May) for the next Council meeting to allow herself and the General Manager to attend the Canberra Region Joint Organisation (CBRJO) Parliament House Sessions.

An update on the Eden Waste and Recycling Depot was also given.

All three Mayoral Minutes were unanimously supported.

Waving of fees and charges

Council has resolved to give authority to the General Manager to authorise exemptions from water and sewer charges; waste fees; Development Application, Complying Development and associated fees; and interest on general rates instalments for properties directly affected by the fires (see full story page 3).

Further education scholarships

Six locals will receive assistance towards their tertiary studies following the announcement of the 2018 Further Education Scholarship recipients. A total of \$5000 will be distributed through the program.

Regional Sports Infrastructure

Council noted the changes to the guidelines of the Regional Sports Infrastructure Fund (RSIF), specifically the requirement for a co-contribution of 25% of the total grant amount.

Council will proceed with funding applications to the NSW

Government's Regional Sports Infrastructure Fund (RSIF) for the Bega Valley Regional Sporting Hub (Bega and Pambula Sportsgrounds) and the Bega War Memorial Pool redevelopment.

Twyford Hall

Council has deferred a decision on whether to make a contribution of \$20,000 toward the costs of professional services (estimated at \$40,000 in total), requested by Twyford Hall Inc, as they continue to seek grant funding to build Theatre Twyford.

A further report will be prepared for Council on where such a contribution could be potentially funded from.

Flood Study and Plan

Council formally endorsed the findings of Bega and Brogo Rivers Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan. The document will be published to Council's website.

Local Traffic Committee

Council adopted the recommendations stemming from the Bega Local Traffic Committee meeting of 7 March.

The items covered included the Merimbula Public School Transport Plan, the Merimbula Fun Run, Merimbula Jazz Festival, the Mother's Day Fun Run in Merimbula, Quaama Walkathon,

Convoy for Kids and Anzac Day arrangements.

Lake Street Shared Path

The community will soon have their opportunity to have their say on the Lake Street Shared Pathway project with three options to be placed on public exhibition.

Bega Valley Medallions

The wonderful contribution volunteers make to our Shire was again on display with 12 people set to be awarded Bega Valley Community Service Medallions during Volunteer Week in May.

Next Council Meeting Tuesday 1 May @ 2pm

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

Watch the meeting as it happens!

Each Council meeting is live
streamed for you to watch on
your desktop, tablet or mobile.

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



Councillors in the Community

Cobargo TBA

Pambula 9 May

**CANDELO AT THE HALL
Wednesday
18 April
6pm**

Tathra 30 May

Eden TBA

What's important to you?

This is your chance to chat with Councillors and senior staff in your own town, on matters that are important to you.

For more information: phone (02) 6499 2222
or visit www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/news



Eggcited children welcome chickens



Bandara's children are smitten with the new chickens.

Meet Shelley and Gregg, two newly hatched chicks and the latest additions at the Bandara Children's Service in Bega.

Children have learnt about patience as they observed the eggs each day and waited excitedly for the chicks to hatch.

Early Childhood teacher, Daryl Kelland, said that the children could hardly believe it when two fluffy chicks appeared a few weeks ago.

"Incubating and hatching chickens is an interactive science project that all the children and families

have been able to engage with and provides numerous opportunities for children's learning and understanding," he said.

"Seeing the newly hatched chicks and watching them grow and develop also creates a memorable event for children."

Since hatching their way into the hearts of the children, Shelley and Gregg have received a lot of loving attention, generated all sorts of enthusiastic conversations and inspired children's artwork.

New shelter in Eden

Future towns project lunched



The revamp of Eden’s Endeavour Park has reached a new milestone, with construction commencing on a new shelter. When completed the shelter will double as a bus shelter for the local neighbourhood.

The collective preparedness of the Bega community to take advantage of new business opportunities will be strengthened following the launch of the Future Towns project.

Supported by funding from the NSW Department of Industry, Bega Valley Shire Council and the Bega Chamber of Commerce have joined forces to help local businesses and organisations embrace the use of technology and subsequently grow their business.

Participation in the Future Towns project is open to local businesses, and not-for-profit community groups in the Bega area.

In the next two months Council and the Chamber will undertake a local business survey, hold a series of workshops, research and develop a Digital Ready Plan, and develop an online portal.

Local business and marketing consultant, Nigel Ayling, and his company, Solutions 4 Biz, will steer the project.

“As well as the workshops, we will also be looking to identify three or four key local businesses that want to take up the challenge and really upscale their business online,” Mr Ayling said.

“These businesses will receive extra assistance, including potential one-on-one sessions to help develop their opportunities further.

“This first stage will be exciting as we recognise and explore the local opportunities, with a view to accessing future funding to develop projects moving forward,” Mr Ayling said.

More information is available through the Bega Valley Future Towns Facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/765008460367221/> or by contacting Project Manager, Nigel Ayling, on 0412 463 386.

Towamba’s new kitchen

The Towamba community have recently seen the completion of the community hall’s kitchen upgrade.

The much needed work was funded through the NSW Government’s Emergency Relief Program to the value of \$29,300.

The remoteness of the Towamba township has seen it cut off at times of flood.

The upgrade will enable the use of the facilities during such times for the town’s people and Emergency Services, as well as catering for the much loved music nights, weddings and other larger events.

The works were completed through the help of volunteers and local tradesmen.



The Towamba Hall’s new kitchen promises to bring new opportunities for the community. The before (above) and after (right) images highlight the exciting changes that bring it up to modern standards.



Cr Robyn Bain knows a thing or two about gardening.

“It won’t grow if you don’t feed it.”

A photograph of a woman, Robyn Bain, sitting in her garden. She is wearing a pink shirt and a visor, and is surrounded by lush green plants and pink roses.

What’s her secret?

Compost from Merimbula tip made from Bega Valley garden waste!

Check the free Bega Valley Waste APP for when our high quality compost is available.

Fill your trailer, and your garden will live happily ever after.

A small yellow speech bubble with the letters 'WTF' in black.

Want to know more? Follow our new Facebook page @BegaValleyWasteandRecycling

Visit www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/waste Phone 6499 2222

A logo with the text 'Waste... The Facts' in a stylized font, with a green and yellow graphic element.

Prospects boosted by prospectus

Bega Valley Shire Council's commitment to driving investment in our area has taken another significant step forward, with the development of an infrastructure prospectus.

The document, which has been distributed widely throughout the Federal and State levels of Government, outlines a carefully mapped and scoped list of strategic investment opportunities.

Council's General Manager, Leanne Barnes, said that investment in infrastructure is a key enabler of economic growth, supports the long-term sustainability of a region and boosts the health and wellbeing of communities.

"Excitingly our Shire is full of opportunities to realise these outcomes," Ms Barnes said.

"The contribution of the community through the Bega Valley Shire Community Strategic Plan 2040 development provided great direction and the basis for the priority list.

"In partnership with the community we are aiming to boost our regional strategic advantage – for tourism and liveability; stimulate the local

economy – for sustainability, employment and innovation; and enrich our local communities – for wellbeing across generations.

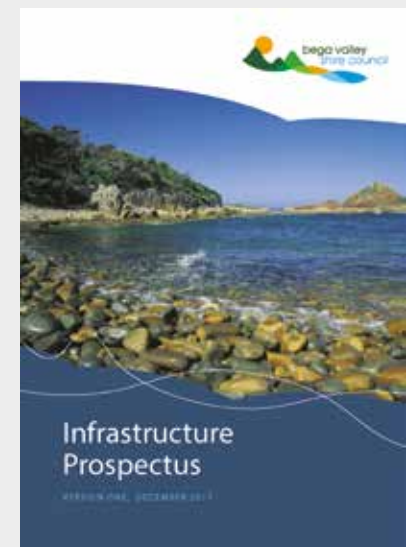
"The contribution of the community through the Bega Valley Shire Community Strategic Plan 2040 development provided great direction and the basis for the priority list."

- Leanne Barnes

"The Port of Eden Wharf, Merimbula Airport upgrade, Bega Education Network and Town Centres projects are among those already underway and we are very keen to ensure the investment momentum continues.

"Recent announcements of funding for projects as diverse as road improvements, boat ramp upgrades, hall kitchen improvements,

community playgrounds and upgrades to our childcare centres have been very encouraging and with our regional sporting facilities, Bega War Memorial Pool and Bega Valley Regional Gallery set to be the subject of funding applications in coming months, we are positive about what the future holds," Ms Barnes said.



SHIRLEY
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2018

ENTRIES NOW OPEN
\$50,000 non-acquisitive award
for realistic portraiture

info & entry forms
<http://gallery.begavalley.nsw.gov.au>

2016 highly commended MICHAEL ZAVROS Madonna and Child, oil on linen 40 x 26.6cm



Gallery development progress

From page 1

"Following the 14 March resolution of Council to proceed with an application to the current round of the NSW Cultural Fund for the redevelopment of the current gallery site, we have been working closely with the NSW Cultural Infrastructure Projects Management Office.

"It's an incredibly exciting time, and even though the competition for funding is incredibly high, we are confident we will have a strong proposal and that there is a clear need for the facility to be updated.

"We were thrilled at the response from the community during the consultation phase last year, with the incredible number of people responding demonstrating how cherished the BVRG is as part of this community.

"This is a once in a generation opportunity to deliver an art gallery that is in line with the community's expectations and allows us to deliver a program of exhibitions and cultural activities that inspire, challenge and mirror the vision we have ourselves here in the Bega Valley.

"A stakeholders committee comprising community members



with expertise across the arts, regional tourism and Aboriginal communities, along with sector experts has been initiated and will be consulted at each milestone throughout the project in preparation for a submission in June.

"I encourage members of the community to contact me in writing at gallery@begavalley.nsw.gov.au to provide any further feedback on the project as we look forward to the next chapter in the BVRG's history and attempt to reach as many people as possible with our future plans," Mr Dawson said.

The gallery's upcoming exhibition EMBELLISH | Hilda Rix Nicholas & The Art of Costume opens on 4 May and entries for the The Shirley Hannan National Portrait Award have opened for 2018.

Contact us

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