

# EUROBODALLA

## Community news from your Council

### IN BRIEF

#### From rags to riches

The average Eurobodalla home has around 15 kilograms of old, worn or unwanted textiles; clothes, shoes, sheets, soft toys, bedroom and kitchen linen. All of these can be taken to the tip year-round, for free. You'll find dedicated bins in the recycling area, but please have them washed and clean before drop-off.

We partner with Upcycle 4 Better, who gather, sort, reuse, upcycle and recycle these cast offs – they don't go to landfill, get burnt, or sent overseas to be someone else's problem. It's good economics and it's good for the environment too: every tonne of textile waste recycled offsets the equivalent of 30 tonnes of carbon dioxide.

We also run regular clothes-swaps for those with unwanted garments too good for the tip. Keep an eye on Council's events for the next one.

#### October openings and happenings

October rolls in with a community ride day at Mogo Trails, with members of the Batemans Bay Mountain Bike Club guiding tours on the already open trails.

Whether you're just starting out, an old pro, or looking for a fun family day out – it's a chance to get ahead of the pack and experience these trails before next year's official opening. Find all the details on Mogo Trails socials.

Another opening, this time complete with big-wigs and ribbon cutting, is the Moruya showground canteen on Saturday 12 October.

Designed to cater for all sorts of functions – and with much better toilets – it also looks a treat with a big nod to Moruya's heritage.



**PIPE DREAMS:** Robert Nutt, Chris Ison, Jaiden Barnes, Ken Murphy, Liam Parsons, Brent Parker, Sean Macauley and Caroline McDonald were just some of the team keeping the Bay sewerage upgrade flowing.

## ON A ROLL, SEWAGE PLANT UPGRADE

The Batemans Bay sewage treatment plant upgrade sees us flushed with success.

Built in the late 1970s, the plant was originally designed to manage sewage – pee, poop and wastewater – for a population of 15,000. A 2012 upgrade raised capacity to 25,700.

With this year's upgrade – assuming a daily load of 175 litres of sewage per person – the plant can now treat the waste of 32,000 people.

So how did we do it? Most obvious is our new clarifier; 32 metres wide, this large concrete tank holds the equivalent of one and half Olympic swimming pools. It accompanies the four existing small clarifiers that were struggling to keep up with holiday-time demands.

The clarifier separates out solid waste, which falls to the tank's bottom to be pumped back to a bioreactor for more treatment. At the same time liquid effluent spills over the clarifier's top weir and flows away for sand filtration and ultra-violet light treatment.

*With this year's upgrade ... the plant can now treat the waste of 32,000 people.*

There's also a whole new aeration system for the bioreactors, two large concrete tanks that house the microorganisms that break down the sewage.

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#### Barnestorming the shire's safety

With almost a year under his belt, Eurobodalla's first full-time local emergency management officer Angus Barnes has taken a deep dive into the shire's emergency plans, working alongside response agencies and community groups to ensure we'll be as prepared as possible facing future catastrophes.

Council upgraded the role from part-time to full-time late last year, reflecting both community sentiment and our own commitment to disaster preparedness in the wake of bushfires and floods. Angus was a natural fit; a seasoned professional with 21 years Rural Fire Service experience and known for his straight-talking, get-it-done approach.

Currently Angus is working on a community information piece for guiding individuals and groups on where to find and how to use abundant existing resources.

"All the response agencies have done a significant amount of work on preparedness – the RFS on bushfire readiness, the SES on floods, and so on. I'm gathering all that up so people can link from one place. It's a good opportunity to remind the community of Council's differing roles before, during and after a natural disaster," he says.

Angus is also working with the NSW Reconstruction Authority on disaster adaptations and pre-emergency recovery plans, formalising the processes of natural-disaster recovery, and putting these in place before disasters happen.

"It's not all big-money or agency-led responses. It can be simple things, like photographing each room in your house from each corner of the room to make a record of your belongings. So much easier for you to make a contents claim, and easier for the insurer too," says Angus.

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Hit for six

Local cricket fan nets top result at home pitch.

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Walking together

Coastal trail for stories of landscape and connection.

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Friendly recommendations feature in new tourism tactics.

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Find your favourite events on the back page.



**NEW FACE:** The Bay Pavilions welcomed Nathan Reichstein to the team. He is passionate about community involvement in theatre and music.

## Show and go at the Pav

A violinist returned home from Germany to perform beautiful music accompanied by piano. The following week, male performers were grinding to an energetic crowd of women. The Bay Pavilions Yuin Theatre has been busy.

“For a facility that’s only two years old, shows have been so diverse,” theatre manager Nathan Reichstein said.

“The Yuin Theatre is still in its growth phase; I am excited to see what it becomes after five years.”

Since opening, the theatre has seen more than 120 shows and 35,000 tickets sold.

Nathan is fresh to the job but comes with plenty of experience, managing a similar theatre in a recreation facility in Adelaide.

“The difference is this theatre is in the 21st century,” he said.

In March this year, Nathan moved to Batemans Bay for the head theatre job with his partner, who also scored a job at the customer service desk.

Now Nathan has come up to speed with Bay Pavilions operations, he is determined to nestle himself into the community, getting to know local groups and schools.

“Community programming was a huge passion of mine in Adelaide, and I hope to implement some ideas here,” Nathan said.

“The work of the manager before me helped put the Bay Pavilions on the map. For the most part, shows are now finding us to hire out the venue. Promoters and artists love the place and are rebooking to come back.”

Nathan explained that 90 percent of the shows are hires. This means the venue is hired by a promoter who then manages promotion.

The other 10 percent of shows are purchased, which Nathan says have been kids shows and morning matinees like the Tenor Twos.

“If we didn’t purchase shows, kids favourites like Gruffulo and Arc wouldn’t come here,” he said.

“Having shows for seniors to travel to in the day is also an investment for the community. We know these types of shows are relatively low cost and well attended.”

The Eurobodalla Business Awards in July showed off the versatility of the theatre space, with more gala events and conferences in the pipeline.

To find out what’s coming to the Bay Pavilions, subscribe to their mailing list or visit [www.baypavilions.com.au](http://www.baypavilions.com.au)

## On a roll, sewerage plant upgrade

Continued from page 1. Just like us, these bugs need a safe space to feed and breath. Your waste is their meal and our new blowers pipe air to the bottom of the tanks through fancy strip diffusers. These create millions of tiny bubbles, just one millimetre wide, making plenty of surface area for the bugs to access. Even so, because these bugs are lazy and don’t like to travel under their own steam, we also use banana mixers – large curved yellow propellers – to mix them up even more.

Ideally, every poop spends 25 days breaking down in the bioreactor before it’s pumped out to a digester. Then our new sludge facility sees excess water removed, with the remaining biosolids easily loaded into trucks for offsite use as soil conditioners.

*Ideally, every poop spends 25 days breaking down in the bioreactor before it’s pumped out to a digester.*

Other upgrades include: improved resistance to corrosion using epoxy coatings, odour extraction and controlled flow through the inlet system (up to 580 litres of sewage each second); better screening of inorganic material like rocks and rags (you’d be amazed what people flush); better access across the facility by improving roads and stormwater control and moving powerlines underground; sand filter and ultra-violet light upgrades in line with improved effluent re-use (providing consistent onsite water and more over for offsite roadworks and sportsfield watering); an additional 40kW of solar panels (boosting the site total to 200kW) and massive 850kVa generator for resilience in natural disasters.

While it wasn’t all smooth sailing – upgrading an operating brownfield site is always a challenge, even without the impact of COVID, the ever-escalating costs of the infrastructure boom, and three very wet La Nina years when it poured every time a hole was dug. But now we’ve got some quality infrastructure, ready for a growing population well into the future while protecting the health of our community and environment. Sometimes you just have to go with the flow...



**WINNING:** Sam, Eric and David McMahon played cricket at Moruya’s Gundry Oval since they were kids. They were first to have a hit at the new facility.

## Eric, we got it done this century!

‘Tis the season to have a hit down at the local cricket pitch, something Eric McMahon has looked forward to for quite a while.

“From its state of decay to its rebirth into a wonderful facility – it was great to watch,” said Eric, who has been lobbying on Council’s social media over the past two years. We counted at least 30 comments on mostly unrelated posts asking for the nets to be restored.

The good news finally came for Eric and our cricketing community - thanks to the Australian Cricket Infrastructure fund, \$92,482 was put towards upgrades at Dalmeny, Bodalla and Moruya – which included the new nets at Gundry.

Now anyone can go down and have a hit. What’s also exciting is Council, Cricket NSW, local clubs and schools are investing in the shire’s cricket strategy to increase participation.

## BAY PAVILIONS

Learn more about memberships, swim school, coming shows and events and more at [www.baypavilions.com.au](http://www.baypavilions.com.au)

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AQUATIC

# Youth all for one on climate

Eurobodalla's teenagers and young adults have a chance to shape the future of their shire with a special event this month.

We know young people across the country, and the world, rate climate change as one of the things they are most worried about for their future. So we're giving them the chance to speak their mind at a youth climate summit.

Organised by Council's youth committee, the event brings young people together to brainstorm different ways to implement Eurobodalla's Climate Action Plan in daily life.

*... the event is a safe space for young people to voice what is important to them, talk out the collective changes they'd like to see on climate issues ...*

Hosted by young climate-advocacy leaders Rat Brodie (Australian Youth Climate Coalition's national schools program manager) and Clíodhna Maguire (the Sydney Botanic Garden's youth community officer), the event is an opportunity for young people to voice what is important to them, talk out the collective changes they'd like to see on climate issues while gaining an in-depth understanding of climate concepts.

The 'All For One' 2024 youth climate summit will run at Moruya's RSL Memorial Hall on Thursday 24 October, 9.30am-3.30pm. Search 'youth climate summit' on Council's website for more information.



This wonderful artwork was developed by Council's Youth Committee.

Representing our five local high schools, these young people were prompted to think about the place they live and the impact of climate on it, whether that be a favourite beach or a bridge they loved to jump from.

The committee then broke into smaller groups to explore different ideas and each develop a draft artwork, using images cut from magazines. These were consolidated into the final piece you see here.

Rather than focussing on climate literacy – the facts and figures of climate change, which was the focus of the 2021 Youth Climate Forum – this project was very much about feelings, using art to connect to place.

And a quick heads up: Keep your eyes peeled for a second, equally arresting image on the posters put up around the place to advertise October's youth climate summit.



## From blood donations to driver's licences

After seven years of our Y drive program, 300 learner drivers now have their independence on the road. The milestone was shared between Batemans Bay's Stephanie Bow and her mentor driver Andrew Border. Andrew coincidentally gave his 300th blood donation the same weekend of the 300th Y drive licence.

For five years, Andrew Border has been volunteering as a community transport driver at Council. He has also donated blood since the age of 18.

"After 43 years in the military service I was injured and discharged and well looked after," Andrew said.

"I feel lucky in life and take the opportunity to give to others however I can."

Andrew spends five days a week volunteering in the Rural Fire Service and with Council's Community Transport. His wife also offers a helping hand with Council's social support programs.

Stephanie is one of the many people grateful for Andrew's time.

"It would have taken a few years to get my licence, but thanks to Andrew dedicating so much of his time, I could get my hours up quickly. I have my freedom, and am able to work in town now I can drive to get there," Stephanie said.

Council's Community Transport team is always looking for more drivers and mentors. If you've got time to give, you can drive seniors to important appointments or sit in the passenger seat and help learners gain hours to achieve their licence.

If you're interested, call 4474 1000 or email [council@esc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@esc.nsw.gov.au)

## AI assistance for development applications

Our builders and developers newsletter is back! The reinvigorated email first hit inboxes in July – touching on items like development application process improvements, service updates and road-naming procedures.

It's all about keeping builders, developers and consultants up-to-date with the latest legislative changes and industry best practice. Okay, not for everyone but great bedtime reading for industry professionals! Search for 'newsletters' on our website to sign up.

Our planners are also trialling AI technology to assist with development applications – using a public-facing tool designed to streamline the process – as the team strives to reduce the time it takes to have applications approved. AI will also be used to help applicants prepare the submissions.

Before 2021, Council determined most development applications well within the statutory 40-day time period. With the implementation of the NSW

Government's Planning Portal, the average time ballooned out to over 60 days. Our planners have been working ever since on ways to improve the process.

One change was a temporary realigning of staff priorities, seeing less-complex applications through quickly and freeing up senior staff for more complex projects. The average time for determination has since dropped to below 50 days, even making it down to 40 this July.

The team plan to make these changes permanent and will keep looking for new ways to improve the way they service Eurobodalla's builders and developers.



**ESTUARY ENVOYS:** Our natural resources officers Mim and James at Wagonga Inlet where oysters are colonising the mangrove roots.

# Mighty mangroves clear muddy waters

It's been a bumper year for mangroves, with existing forests thriving and plenty of young plants recolonising old locations and shooting up in new ones.

When you see a carpet of mangrove seedling, remember these will be thinned out by storms and tides, with only the stronger ones growing to maturity.

Adapted to brackish estuary environments, mangroves are vital to our coast, reducing erosion and providing habitat. Mangrove forests benefit us by:

- Improving water quality - filtering up to 90 percent of pollutants
- Tempering coastal erosion - reducing waves by as much as two thirds
- Creating biodiversity hotspots - providing homes for up to 200 species of fish

- Mitigating climate change - storing four times more carbon than rainforests.

You'll often see crabs in the mud of mangrove forests – it's a symbiotic relationship. As they burrow and feed they aerate the mud and cycle in nutrients, while the mangroves themselves feed and shelter the crabs.

Some notable mangrove sites in Eurobodalla can be found at Wagonga Inlet, Congo Creek, Candaglan Creek, Tuross Lake and the Moruya River and Clyde River Estuaries.



## Sandbags and seawalls

### Coastal protection

Our current coastal protection work centres around the protection of Council-managed community assets around Batemans Bay.

We've been using sandbags at Long Beach to temporarily protect Bay Road from coastal erosion. Our early efforts had many hands grasping big needles to sew shut the sand-filled sacks. We got smarter, more recently buying bags with built-in Velcro closures, saving us time and money, and some blisters too.

Now we've compared all the options based on social, environmental and economic factors, finding a rock revetment to be Long Beach's best long-term solution. It's cost effective, long lasting, and looks so much better than a concrete wall (or sandbags!). It also allows for the existing Norfolk pines along the shoreline.

McLeods Beach, a low-lying area at the western end of Surfside, is at risk of swamping in coastal storms. We're designing a raised embankment that protects infrastructure and improves

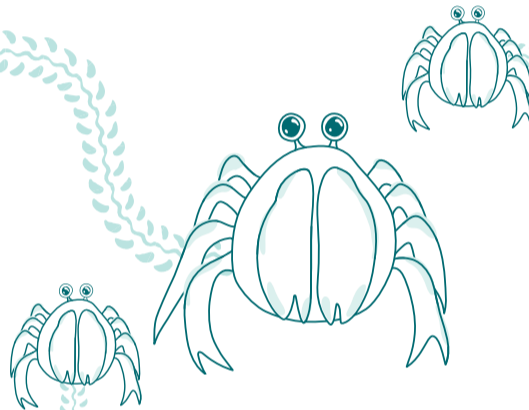
### Action needs money

We know you love Eurobodalla's 143 kilometres of coast, we love them too. Our beaches, estuaries and headlands are among the best reasons to live here. That's why we have such rigorous coast and estuary management programs.

The Eurobodalla Open Coastal Management Program is our bible for coastline management. It includes 140 actions, many focusing on protecting shorelines and public infrastructure. We also use it to apply for funding so we can make these actions happen.

access, with scope to add more height and length in the future. Meanwhile the north end of Surfside Beach needs more sand – Transport for NSW is responsible for that but we're advocating it be done as quickly as possible.

The sea is also encroaching on Wharf Road at North Batemans Bay, particularly at that sharp bend in the road. Here, a sea wall will reduce wave damage during storms and big seas. It will continue along the beach to join the seawall at Easts Riverside Holiday Park, giving us scope to raise the road in the future. Looking further south still, we're planning to rebuild bigger and better at Batehaven's Caseys Beach, where waves are breaking over the current seawall and damaging Beach Road.



**The longest non-stop flight recorded by a migratory seabird is 13,560 kilometres,** with a bar-tailed godwit flying from Alaska to Australia in just 11 days! You can see these birds feeding on the sandflats of Wagonga Inlet in spring as they fuel up for take-off across the world yet again.

**When the 2019-20 bushfires blew tonnes of ash way out across the Pacific Ocean** it caused a bloom of phytoplankton the size of Australia. These microscopic plants were then able to suck up the same amount of carbon that was released by the fires, reducing the climate impact.

**The Narooma town wharf is home to over 250 marine species,** including the endangered black rock cod.

**Aboriginal people used Neptune's necklace just like we use a modern-day barometer.** When the seaweed's beads are hard, there is high pressure and good weather. When the beads go soft however, a low pressure system is on the way – so find shelter, it's about to rain.

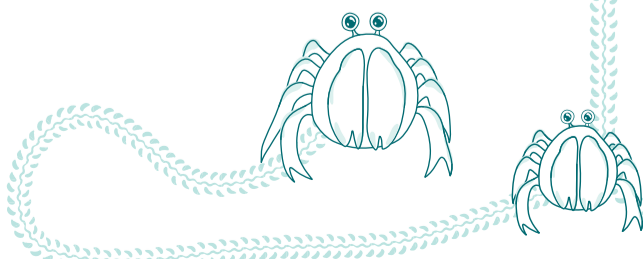
## coastie Fun facts

With our natural resources officer James Caffery

**Kelp is an algae** – when a branch breaks off a rock it stays alive in the ocean until it is cast ashore and dries up. Kelp is highly nutritious and a great addition to your diet or to fertilise your soil. By contrast, seagrass is a plant with flowers, fruit and seed. It can also reproduce through tubers – just like normal grass.

**Octopus have three hearts.** Because they have copper transporting oxygen, not iron like us, their blood is blue.

**Our rocky sandstone headlands were originally sediment lying flat at the bottom of a basin.** Over thousands to millions of years, this hardened and was bent and fractured into the shapes and angles we see now.



## Penguin watch

As the weather warms up, so does Little Penguin activity on Snapper Island.

During winter, they found their match to make the magic happen and produce chicks throughout spring. By summer, the chicks will leave their nest to survive on their own.

This time last year, there were nearly double the number of nests with eggs, so a slightly later start to breeding this year. There's nothing wrong with that of course; every year is different when the ocean is involved.

The NSW Government's Seabirds to Seascapes project kicked off again this September, where researchers and volunteers count penguins, weigh chicks and check nests.

We saw lots of nests damaged last season by huge storms and swell. It was also sad to see vandals smash half a dozen of our nest boxes – we aren't sure what motivates this. We called out to our Fix It Sister friends in Sydney who made a dozen more – these ones are extra robust.

Although we're relieved the penguins have a safe place to breed and rest this season, we're becoming concerned about their access.

Over the past 10 years, the island's shores have become steeper – almost at a 45-degree angle with steep drop offs in some spots. The cobbles make it tricky to climb too, but the penguins still manage, for now.



It's part of their nature to dry out and socialise on the high tide mark for an hour or so before walking to the top of the island to feed their chicks.

Further to the Seabirds to Seascapes project are conservation efforts by Taronga Zoo and three NSW universities. Scientists tag penguins with GPS trackers to understand more about their travels up and down the coast.

*From last season's tagging, we learned that some of our penguins swam to the Botany Bay colony while many northern penguins travelled south.*

From last season's tagging, we learned that some of our penguins swam to the Botany Bay colony while many northern penguins travelled south.

While they're there, scientists also take blood samples to check for avian influenza. The virus hasn't made its way to Australia yet; keeping an eye on our penguins and other migratory birds is a smart move to stay one step ahead.

We also know that where there's food, the penguins are happy. Scientists have some cool technology to sample water for DNA. They'll go as far as 10-20 kilometres offshore, just where the continental shelf starts to slope into the deep blue.

No need to spot the penguins in the flesh, environmental DNA samples can help identify the fish species present in an area and determine if penguins are visiting to feed. By pinpointing these key feeding areas, we can better understand the reasons for the penguins' declining numbers and work towards effective conservation measures.

## Coastal conference comes to the Bay

We are proud of Eurobodalla's coastline. With its pristine beaches, rich marine life, and scenic coastal towns, all nestled within stunning national parks and reserves, we thought it would be fitting to host the next NSW Coastal Conference, especially to showcase some significant projects we have on the go.

The event spans three days in November, bringing 200 industry experts and trailblazers who'll come together to talk about all things coast.

Taking place at the Bay Pavilions in Batemans Bay, the theme this year is "Dynamic Coasts: Embracing the Past, Innovating for the Future".

Of the 80 speakers throughout the conference, some of our locals will have time on stage too.

There will be three breakout rooms plus plenary sessions. A favourite is the field trips, which will highlight some of our projects: Erosion at Long Beach, the Munjip Trail, Wagonga Inlet Living Shoreline, estuary management of the Clyde/Bhundoo River and the penguin monitoring program.

Winners of the Annual NSW Coastal Management Awards will be announced at the conference, celebrating the brightest minds and coolest projects in coastal management.

Our local talent in the conference includes our very own senior graphic designer Karlee van der Meulen and tourism planning officer Felicity Richards. They will share recent examples of how Aboriginal culture has been incorporated into coastal projects.

Our natural resource and sustainability coordinator Heidi Thomson also takes to the stage to present on nature-based solutions to coastal erosion. She will talk about our use of ecosystem improvements for foreshore protection and what we have learned from recent work at Wagonga Inlet.

Council's coastal planner, Cam Whiting, will also host a tour of coastal hazard hotspots along Surfside and Long Beach.

Other Eurobodalla locals include Cat Leach who dives into Wagonga's marine life, and Jen Thompson who will talk about her citizen science adventures with the Nature Coast Marine Group.

If you have an interest in coastal management, you can purchase tickets and access the program online [www.coastalconference.com](http://www.coastalconference.com)

## Munjip is more than a trail

The Batemans Bay Coastal Headlands Walking Trail is a bit of a mouthful, so we turned to our Elders for a name that truly reflects its essence. They chose "Munjip" meaning "walking together, let's go" in dhurga language.

The trail is on track to be finished this year. Crews have installed footbridges, viewing platforms, safety fences and toilet blocks ... plus there are a few special features we're still working on.

The walk extends from Observation Point to McKenzies Beach, taking in the views at Pretty Point and Malua Bay headland along the way. It's about 16 kilometres in total, with three trailheads for easy access.

For a project this scale, we're extra proud of the community input which is making it one-of-a-kind in NSW. Aside from our usual consultation with community, we've gone a little beyond to involve five Indigenous artists, Elders, and high school students.

Through evolving processes and deeper levels of consultation, there's now a lot more than the natural beauty to experience along the walk.

Some special features include yarning circles, sculpted timber totems, and signs sharing Aboriginal culture. There are also audio posts with stories from traditional custodians.

This is a first for our shire at this scale, showcasing culture and connection to country through interpretive art, graphics, sculpture, and signs.

By sharing the stories of the landscape and its people, both past and present, we aim to build a stronger sense of connection and community.

We can't wait for regular walkers and first-time visitors to experience the Munjip Trail. We have a website coming soon, with maps and itineraries to help you explore.

**CREATIVE:** Batemans Bay High School woodwork students create totem poles for the Munjip Trail.





## dhurga corner

This regular column introduces dhurga words and culture, with help from our Aboriginal Advisory Committee.

In the last issue we looked at the first of four core principles of traditional LORE – Land. This issue we’ll be consider the second principle of LORE – Origins.

Historical and current customs, values and codes of behaviour are governed by cultural lore. Of course, lore is present in all cultures, a major influence on how people interact that encourages appropriate and respectful behaviour.

Traditionally, Aboriginal lore is passed down verbally through story, song, dance and the land itself.



**Bushfood**  
*mamaadja - native cherry tree*

This tree grows a little edible berry. The leaves are used in smoking ceremonies, holding different stories that connect to dreaming, ceremony and mens/womens business.



**Origins**  
*umbarra – pacific black duck*

This is the totem of the yuin people, with a very strong story and connection to the Wallaga Lake area.

When traditional custodians think of totems, they think of them as family. Not only animals are totems, plants and insects and even the elements can be totems.

*An individual can have several totems including individual, family, tribal, nation, spirit and/or lore totems.*

An individual can have several totems including individual, family, tribal, nation, spirit and/or lore totems. Each comes with responsibility to protect it and its environment – totems are looked after like family. This is one of the ways traditional culture cared for country to ensure a healthy and thriving environment.

Another aspect to origins is language. Traditionally, people would speak up to five or six different languages. In Eurobodalla, there are two similar but unique language groups; dhurga and djirringanj.

Eurobodalla Libraries and local bookshops have copies of *The Dhurga Dictionary and Learner’s Grammar*, authored by locals Trish Ellis, Kerry Boyenga and Waine Donovan.

# Tourism done differently

Tourism can be a touchy subject among our locals. To have a slice of paradise all to yourself is why many choose to reside here. As our population grows, so does our tourism.

To find a balance, our tourism team is adopting a new focus for the next two years: to increase the value rather than the volume of visitors. Instead of bringing in more visitors, the goal is to get more from the ones we already have.

For example, if we could persuade a quarter of our current overnight visitors to spend one extra night – that would deliver an extra \$30 million into Eurobodalla’s economy.

So how are we going to do it? Council allocates \$670,000 for tourism each year and it’s important we get bang for our buck. We want to be more efficient in how we invest and effective in the results we achieve. To do this, we’ll be trying out a new approach to managing tourism, bringing the community and industry in closer for the ride.

Traditionally, our tourism delivery model was run in-house – led by a tourism manager and small team. But that’s about to change. We are in the process of creating a new industry-based working group that would see the tourism sector have greater autonomy and accountability over how their industry is supported and promoted.

*“Tourism already has a positive impact on Eurobodalla’s communities, and by working more closely with the tourism industry, we aim to grow our visitor economy in a sustainable way.”*

A new tourism delivery model was also a priority action from the Eurobodalla Destination Action Plan adopted in December 2023.

Our general manager Warwick Winn said this new approach will be tested as a two-year pilot.

“While the working group will have a fair degree of autonomy, Council will still be very closely involved and the tourism team will have plenty to do,” he said.

“Clear terms of reference and a solid governance model will be developed - with input from the working group - as well as a detailed evaluation framework.

“Tourism already has a positive impact on Eurobodalla’s communities, and by working more closely with the tourism industry, we aim to grow our visitor economy in a sustainable way.”



**NEW ATTRACTION:** Mogo Trails 130km mountain bike network is set to be fully completed early next year.

To engage the local community more, future marketing efforts will focus on visiting friends and relatives and Council’s support for local events will grow.

Community events are a great way to tap into the friends and relatives market, which makes up about 30 percent of all visitors to Eurobodalla. Plus, these travellers usually stick around longer and spend more, so it’s definitely worth our attention.

Also, studies show visitors are more likely to trust recommendations from friends and family than any other form of marketing. If we can get more locals experiencing what Eurobodalla has to offer, that’s free advertising right there!

In addition to targeting friends and family, we’ll continue to attract secondary wellness travellers - those seeking a relaxing holiday but also open to adventures like bushwalking, mountain biking, and kayaking. They’re also interested in arts and culture, so showcasing key cultural events is important. Eurobodalla has a lot to offer this crowd, and we’re excited to showcase it.

Subscribe to our monthly tourism industry newsletter for updates and the latest trends. Search ‘newsletters’ on Council’s website.



**ALL CODES:** Artist's concept of multi-sport playing fields and track, coming to Catalina.

## We're not hanging around at Hanging Rock

Batemans Bay will soon have a new home for athletics, with exciting upgrades planned at the Hanging Rock sporting complex.

With the winter soccer season coming to a close, we're working at the northern end of the complex. The goal – to build a new multi-sport oval with athletics facilities, and all the bells and whistles included: unisex changerooms, spectator seating, LED field-lighting system and formal parking.

The existing facility will be demolished before we pull out the existing irrigation, then re-align and level the field. That will take the better part of ten weeks before we can start to grow grass for the new playing surface, ready for use in March 2025, weather-gods willing. The new building and amenities will be ready around the same time.

We've consulted widely, with current users like soccer, AFL, league and cricket clubs all involved from the planning phase with meetings on site and plenty of back-and-forth. Different codes will use the site and they have different needs for storage and canteen requirements, for example.

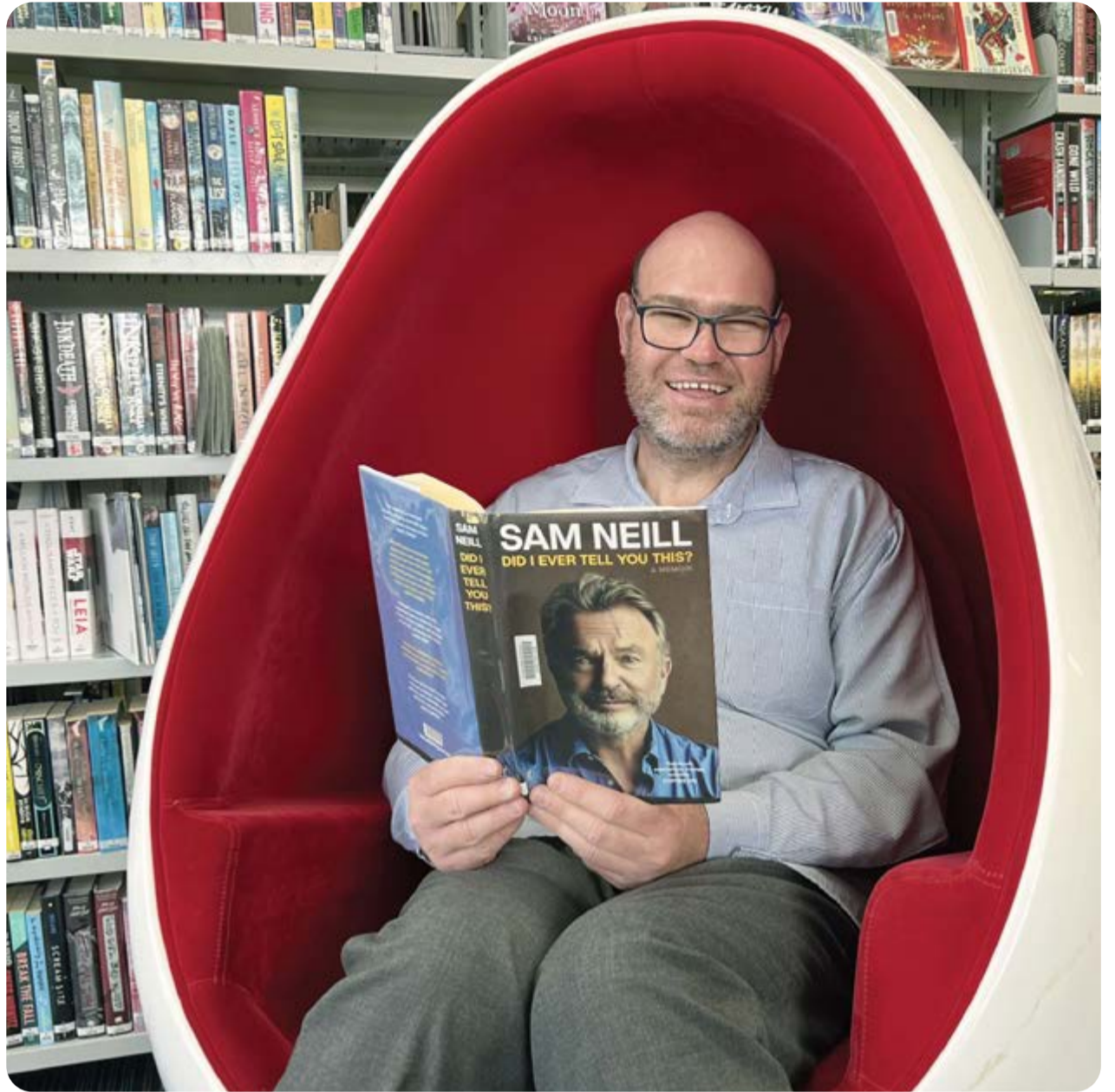
The majority of dollars for the almost \$2.4 million project comes from the NSW Office of Sport, with Council making up the balance. It's an investment well made – Hanging Rock is already the premier sporting precinct in the region. This opportunity means clubs will have a top-shelf facility well into the future, no matter the sporting code.



## Centenary Drive fix on way

In the crazy rains of 2021, a short section of Narooma's Centenary Drive collapsed, making one lane impassable. We set up a 'temporary' give-way system allowing traffic to flow until we fix up the steep bank to Mill Bay so we can rebuild the road.

Well, it's been quite the journey. There's been input and permissions needed from a swag of organisations, service providers and NSW Government departments and that's just to get everything ready. Of course, we've kept both the environment and Mill Bay's famous boardwalk in mind while doing so. Now that's all in place, you can expect to see this scenic road back to its former glory soon.



**SMALL SCREEN HERO:** Andrew Radford says a long career helping customers and finding articles at Batemans Bay Library set him up for success on the ABC hit TV series *The Assembly*.

## Time to shine: Andrew advocates

With his 23 years working at the Batemans Bay Library, we've long admired Andrew Radford's efforts promoting inclusivity and the value of workplace diversity. So we're more than a little proud to see him shine on *The Assembly*.

The ABC hit TV series follows 15 autistic student journalists as they prepare and then interview six iconic Aussies. And it all began with an email...

"I'd already done the 'Future Leaders' course with Autism CRC. They got in touch saying I should apply," says Andrew.

Several Zoom meetings, then a Sydney trip to meet the show's producers, and Andrew was in!

"They asked, why journalism? I want more inclusive reporting, including by people with autism. It's a good way to extend the advocacy work I already do. They liked that; it took me to the next stage," says Andrew.

That next stage involved turning-tables on Australia's most experienced interviewer – Leigh Sales – who Andrew describes as a hero.

"We didn't realise when we first interviewed Leigh she was going to come back as our mentor. It was amazing working with her – she was so kind and helpful.

"We would research the other people to interview and write up our questions. Leigh would go through them with us, though she said our questions were very good. I think that's because people with autism have a different outlook."

Those 'other people to interview' included Sam Neil, Delta Goodrem, Amanda Keller, Adam Goodes and Hamish Blake. But it was Prime Minister Anthony Albanese who Andrew most enjoyed interviewing.

"During my research I found out the current prime minister loves silver ties, so on the day I wore a silver tie. That's probably rapport building but it's my favourite tie too, so a bit of a lucky coincidence," laughs Andrew.

Coincidence or not, that rapport building has Andrew confident enough to be asking the PM harder questions, like:

"Was he seeing more people with disability in parliament? He said he would look into it."

Andrew says it's not just the polities who are lagging behind. Neurodiverse people lack representation in the media too, so Andrew is heartened by a six-week ABC internship offered to all *The Assembly* participants.

"I'll be doing mine in Canberra – finding good-news stories on people with disability – and also a stint on radio with the garden show. That starts at the end of October."

From there, Andrew says, anything could happen.

"My dream would be Australian Story. I would love to work with Leigh on that. Doing *The Assembly* shows everyone what people with autism are capable of but there is still a way to go – people with autism need a voice and more positive portrayal.

"It's our time to shine."

You can stream *The Assembly* free on ABC iview.

# WHAT'S ON

October-December 2024

For more events in Eurobodalla, visit [whatson.eurobodalla.com.au](http://whatson.eurobodalla.com.au) and [www.esc.nsw.gov.au/events](http://www.esc.nsw.gov.au/events)

## October

**Hip hop school holiday fun** Primary school kids can join in dance sessions with dance teacher Elise May. Free, bookings required, [www.esc.nsw.gov.au/library](http://www.esc.nsw.gov.au/library)

**Tuesday 1 October, Batemans Bay Library, 10.30-11.30am; Tuesday 1 October, Moruya Library, 2.30-3.30pm; Wednesday 2 October, Narooma Library, 2-3pm**

**Tuesday 1 October It's a Bat's Life children's play, Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden, Batemans Bay, 11am-12pm.** This interactive play will teach you fascinating fact about bats and their environment. Tickets \$12-\$54, [www.erb.org.au](http://www.erb.org.au)

**Wednesday 2 October Goldner String Quartet, St John's Anglican Church, Moruya, 6.30-8.30pm.** This thought-provoking program features compositions by Mozart, Shostakovich, and Schubert. Tickets from \$30, [whatson.eurobodalla.com.au](http://whatson.eurobodalla.com.au)

**Friday 4 October Baranguba, Bay Pavilions, 6-7pm.** A fusion of dance and digital art, Baranguba tells the tragic, but resilient story of the First People of Narooma and Baranguba/Montague Island. Tickets \$25-\$35, [whatson.eurobodalla.com.au](http://whatson.eurobodalla.com.au)

**Saturday 5 October Art Ready demonstration, Basil Sellers Exhibition Centre, Moruya, 1-3pm.** Artist David Ramsland will demonstrate how to prepare various surfaces for oil painting. Tickets \$30, bookings required, [www.thebas.com.au](http://www.thebas.com.au)

**Children's discovery walks, Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden, Batemans Bay.** Spot frogs, birds, and other fascinating species that live in, under, and on plants. Free, bookings required, [www.erb.org.au](http://www.erb.org.au)  
**Sunday 6 October, 11am-12pm; Sunday 13 October, 11am-12pm**

**Eurobodalla literary and art salons** Moruya Library Writers and visual artists will present their creative collaborations. Free, bookings required, [www.esc.nsw.gov.au/library](http://www.esc.nsw.gov.au/library)  
**Pre-salon exhibition Monday 30 September to Thursday 10 October; Salon 1 Thursday 10 October, 5.30-7.30pm; Pre-salon exhibition Monday 14 October to Thursday 24 October; Salon 2 Thursday 24 October, 5.30-7.30pm**

**Saturday 12 October Mosaic techniques workshop, Basil Sellers Exhibition Centre, Moruya, 12.30-3.30pm.** Artist Geoffrey Odgers shares tips and expert guidance on mosaic art. \$120 per person, bookings required, [www.thebas.com.au](http://www.thebas.com.au)

**Thursday 17 October The Tenors Two, Bay Pavilions, Batemans Bay, 11am.** Steve Johnston and Paul Marshall come together to sing their own style from Presley to Pavarotti to Tom Jones. Tickets from \$29, [www.baypavilions.com.au](http://www.baypavilions.com.au)

**Friday 18 October Conversation with author Chris Hammer, Moruya Library, 12-1.30pm.** Bestselling author Chris Hammer talks about his latest thriller, The Valley. Free, bookings required, [www.esc.nsw.gov.au/library](http://www.esc.nsw.gov.au/library)

**Guided bird walks Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden, Batemans Bay.** Listen for calls, and spot some of the 130 bird species that call the Garden home. Bookings required, [www.erb.org.au](http://www.erb.org.au) **Saturday 19 October, guided walk and breakfast, \$25 per person, 7-9am; Sunday 20 October, guided family bird walk, free, 10-11am**

**Sunday 20 October Plant and clothes swap, Batemans Bay Rotary Markets, 9am-1pm.** Trade environmental weeds from your garden for free native plants, swap up to five items of pre-loved clothing. Free, [www.esc.nsw.gov.au/events](http://www.esc.nsw.gov.au/events)

**Tuesday 22 October Children's Week fun day, Jack Buckley Park, Tomakin, 10am-12pm.** Bring a hat, sunscreen, and a picnic lunch for a celebration. Free, bookings required, [www.esc.nsw.gov.au/children](http://www.esc.nsw.gov.au/children)

**Career conversations with the Job Shop** Find out about local job opportunities and tips for mastering an application. Free, bookings required, [www.esc.nsw.gov.au/library](http://www.esc.nsw.gov.au/library)  
**Tuesday 22 October, Batemans Bay Library, 2-3.30pm; Wednesday 30 October, Narooma Library, 2-3.30pm; Thursday 31 October, Moruya Library, 10.30am-12pm**

**Thursday 24 October Youth Climate Summit, Moruya RSL Memorial Hall, 9.30am-3.30pm.** Young people aged 12-18 are invited to join workshops and activities to learn about and take climate action. Free, bookings required, [www.esc.nsw.gov.au/youth](http://www.esc.nsw.gov.au/youth)

**Author talks with Benjamin Stevenson** The bestselling author will chat about his recent book, Everyone This Christmas Has a Secret. Free, bookings required, [www.esc.nsw.gov.au/library](http://www.esc.nsw.gov.au/library)  
**Thursday 24 October, Moruya Library, 10.30-11.30am; Thursday 24 October, Narooma Library, 5.30-6.30pm**

**Thursday 24 October Water night, cultural and cinematic experience, Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden, Batemans Bay, 5.30-8.30pm.** Traditional dancers, Muladha Gamara, and a screening of Our Blue World. Free, food available for purchase, bookings required, [www.erb.org.au](http://www.erb.org.au)

**Friday 25 October Author talk with Andrew Skeoch, Batemans Bay Library, 5-6pm.** The acoustic ecologist shares sounds and insights from his book, Deep Listening to Nature. Free, bookings required, [www.esc.nsw.gov.au/library](http://www.esc.nsw.gov.au/library)

**Friday 25 October Diesel Bootleg Melancholy album tour, Bay Pavilions, Batemans Bay, 8pm.** Diesel brings his signature blend of rock, blues, and soul to this intimate musical performance. VIP packages available. Tickets \$80-\$175, [www.baypavilions.com.au](http://www.baypavilions.com.au)

**Friday 25 to Sunday 27 October Mogo Mania Gravity Enduro Stage Race,** This multi-day race showcases the new Mogo Trails with three stages each day. Register at [rockytrailentertainment.com/mogomania](http://rockytrailentertainment.com/mogomania)

**Saturday 26 October UOW Science Space mini-museum, Narooma Sports and Leisure Centre, 10am-1pm.** Interactive science, tech, engineering, and maths activities for all ages. Free, bookings required, [www.esc.nsw.gov.au/events](http://www.esc.nsw.gov.au/events)



## Crank It Up festival

Friday 15 to Sunday 17 November  
Batemans Bay foreshore park

Live music, dancing, hotrods, vintage cars, retro markets, demos and workshops. Free entry all weekend, [www.crankitupbatemansbay.com](http://www.crankitupbatemansbay.com)

## December

**Saturday 21 December Daniel Connell, Little Aussie Battler, Bay Pavilions, Batemans Bay, 8pm.** Daniel shows why making people laugh is the most natural thing in the world. Tickets \$28-\$30, [www.baypavilions.com.au](http://www.baypavilions.com.au)

**Sunday 29 December to Saturday 4 January George Bass Surfboat and Ski Marathon** From Batemans Bay to Eden, the longest, toughest surfboat race in the world is now in its 50th year. Register and more information at [www.georgebassmarathon.com.au](http://www.georgebassmarathon.com.au)

## Markets

**SAGE Farmers' Markets, Moruya**  
**Tuesdays, 3pm-5pm Riverside Park, Shore Street, Moruya.** Award-winning market showcasing local produce. [sagefarmersmarket.org.au](http://sagefarmersmarket.org.au)

**Batehaven Mini Market**  
**Wednesdays, 11.30am-2pm, Country Women's Association, Edward Road, Batehaven.** Produce, unique arts and crafts, woodwork, preserves and baked goods.

**Edward Road Market Place**  
**Wednesday to Sunday, check Facebook for businesses and opening hours, Edward Road, Batehaven.** Plants, art, music, flowers, produce, craft and vintage treasures.

**Moruya Country Market**  
**Saturdays, 8am-12.30pm, Riverside Park, Shore Street, Moruya.** Live music, arts and crafts, food, coffee, fresh produce, clothing and books. [moruyacountrymarket.com.au](http://moruyacountrymarket.com.au)

**Nelligen Village Markets**  
**Second Saturday of the month, 9am-2pm, Nelligen Community Hall, Braidwood Street, Nelligen.** Origami, quilting, pottery, plants, produce and old wares.

**Tilba Market**  
**Saturdays, 8am-12pm, Central Tilba Hall, Bate Street.** Local produce including eggs, honey, jams, preserves, baked treats and handmade items.

**Batemans Bay Sunday Markets**  
**First and third Sunday of the month, 9am-1pm, Waterfront, Clyde Street, Batemans Bay.** Local produce, arts and crafts and second-hand items.

**Narooma Rotary Markets**  
**Fourth Sunday of the month, 8.30am-1pm, NATA Oval, Bluewater Drive, Narooma.** Food, coffee, clothing, books, arts and crafts, plants and local produce.

**Saturday 26 to Sunday 27 October Clarke's Gambit overnight ride, starting at the Steampacket Motel Nelligen.** Family friendly bike ride offers scenic gravel tracks, prizes, and ride support. e-bikes welcome, entries \$160-\$240, [whatson.eurobodalla.com.au](http://whatson.eurobodalla.com.au)

**Tuesday 29 October Vesna Cvjeticanin book launch, Batemans Bay Library, 2pm-3pm.** Vesna's new book, An Unexpected Life, showcases the remarkable journeys of twelve migrant women from diverse countries. Free, bookings required, [www.esc.nsw.gov.au/library](http://www.esc.nsw.gov.au/library)

## November

**Saturday 2 November Music of the Night, Bay Pavilions, Batemans Bay, 2pm.** A tribute to the music of Andrew Lloyd Webber and West End musicals. Tickets from \$64.95, [www.baypavilions.com.au](http://www.baypavilions.com.au)

**Monday 4 November Mending circle workshop, Moruya Library, 3.30-5.30pm.** Bring one or two clothing items that need fixing, and learn hand-sewing skills to repair them. Free, bookings required, [www.esc.nsw.gov.au/library](http://www.esc.nsw.gov.au/library)

**Speechie library talks** Parents and carers of children aged 0-3 can learn about early language skills from South Coast Speech Pathology's Claire Price. Free, bookings required, [www.esc.nsw.gov.au/library](http://www.esc.nsw.gov.au/library)

**Tuesday 5 November, Narooma Library, 11am-12pm; Wednesday 6 November, Batemans Bay Library, 11am-12pm; Monday 11 November, Moruya Library, 9.30-11.30am**

**Bushfire physics workshops** Expert Bruce Leaver talks preparation for the upcoming bushfire season. Free, bookings required, [www.esc.nsw.gov.au/library](http://www.esc.nsw.gov.au/library)  
**Wednesday 6 November, Narooma Library, 10.30am-12.30pm; Thursday 21 November, Moruya Library, 10.30am-12.30pm**

**Monday 11 November Creative writing workshop, Batemans Bay Library, 1.30-4.30pm.** Dr Rae Luckie will guide you to start writing your novel, memoir, or short story. Free, bookings required, [www.esc.nsw.gov.au/library](http://www.esc.nsw.gov.au/library)

**Writing workshops** Author Tracey Lee will help you explore characters and emotions. \$5 per person, bookings required, [www.esc.nsw.gov.au/library](http://www.esc.nsw.gov.au/library)

**Wednesday 13 November, Narooma Library, 10.30am-12.30pm; Thursday 14 November, Moruya Library, 10.30am-12.30pm**

**Author talks with John Blay** Local author John Blay shares themes and dramatic places featured in his books. Free, bookings required, [www.esc.nsw.gov.au/library](http://www.esc.nsw.gov.au/library)

**Tuesday 26 November, Batemans Bay Library, 2-3pm; Wednesday 27 November, Narooma Library, 2.30-3.30pm; Thursday 28 November, Moruya Library, 10.30-11.30am**

**Friday 29 November Marina Prior and Michael Cormick Centerstage, Bay Pavilions, Batemans Bay, 7.30pm.** The world-class artists will perform iconic show tunes from their hit musicals. Tickets from \$34.95, [www.baypavilions.com.au](http://www.baypavilions.com.au)

## Council meetings

Attend a council meeting in person or online for your dose of democracy in action. Everything you need to know; registering, presenting, meeting times, agendas, minutes can be found at [www.esc.nsw.gov.au/meetings](http://www.esc.nsw.gov.au/meetings)

## Storytime

Storytime for kids is free at your local library. Every Monday at Batemans Bay, Wednesdays at Moruya, and Thursdays at Narooma from 10.30am during the school term.  
[esc.nsw.gov.au/libraries](http://esc.nsw.gov.au/libraries)

## 3Bs playgroups

Families with children under school age can join in free playgroups with stories, music and activities that promote school readiness. Various locations across Eurobodalla.  
[esc.nsw.gov.au/children](http://esc.nsw.gov.au/children)

## Library sensory-friendly

Once a month Eurobodalla Libraries adjust their environment for people with sensory needs, so they can browse the library with reduced lighting, noise and distractions.  
[esc.nsw.gov.au/libraries](http://esc.nsw.gov.au/libraries)