

EUROBODALLA

Community news from your Council

IN BRIEF

Solar panels get a second life

It's new, it's innovative, it's solar-ific and coming to Eurobodalla... a solar panel reuse centre!

This community centre is based at the Moruya tip thanks to local group, Repurposing for Resilience (RfR).

RfR is made up of some clever volunteers - there are sparkies, engineers and fabricators all putting their skills and creativity towards giving second-hand solar panels another life.

You can drop old solar panels off for free at the centre located at 21 Yarragee Road, Moruya - stop at the tip office for directions.

If you can't get to Moruya, you can still drop solar panels at any tip for \$10 per item and we'll get it to the RfR team for you.

Green light on free disposal

You asked, we listened. Between the 11th and 24th of September you can drop your green waste at the shire's tips for free.

So clean up your leaves and twigs from gutters and around buildings, prune back your trees and shrubs and mow your lawns short. It's an opportunity to ready your property for the upcoming fire season and ties in with the Rural Fire Service's annual 'Get Ready' weekend on the 16th and 17th of September.

You can drop off your green waste at any of Council's three waste facilities. The Surf Beach and Brou tips are open from 7am to 4.45pm Monday to Friday, and 8am to 3.45pm on weekends. The Moruya tip is open from 8am to 3.45pm Thursday to Monday. Follow directions on site as drop-off areas do change.

[Find out more on our website.](#)



ON THE JOB: Mayor Mathew Hatcher (right) with builder Aaron Monopoli in Moruya. Projects like this are the frontline of housing affordability in the Eurobodalla.

Spotlight on affordability

It's affordability, not land supply, at issue when looking for a home in Eurobodalla. That's a message that keeps getting lost.

When we say housing is affordable, we mean rent or mortgage repayments make up no more than 30 per cent of household income. While housing affordability is largely the result of state and federal policies and programs, and the market's response, Council has a role to play.

It's our job to ensure there is enough zoned land, enabling development with an eye to choice and diversity. There is, and we are now seeing people take up these different opportunities.

Applications for secondary dwellings - (granny flats or smaller dwellings on the same land as the main dwelling) have risen from 20 per year to 30 then 40 in the last three years.

We've also had applications for 52 multi-unit developments, each ranging from three to 67 residences, since 2017. Half of these have been lodged or approved in the last two years.

True, units and secondary dwellings won't solve all our housing issues. But enabling diverse housing means more people can choose a better way to live. Singles and couples would often prefer to move out of

the three and four-bedroom houses that currently make up over 80 per cent of the shire's housing into smaller dwellings.

Building costs keep rising, which leads to development approvals being left unbuilt. So we've been using state government funding to install infrastructure that makes building more attractive. New roads, sewerage and water at Batehaven and south of Moruya will see well over 1,000 new homes over the next ten years, (see *South Moruya growth area*, p7).

We're also exploring longer-term solutions, like the viability of subdividing dual occupancies, and enabling higher-density building in Batemans Bay.

It's going to take a multi-pronged approach but, for example, after a massive five-year hike in rents of 31.7 per cent, we've recently seen a drop of almost eight per cent - one of only five shires bucking the state trend, and by far the biggest decrease.

We're not claiming outcomes like this as our own but we're optimistic our work is helping.

Keeping our heads above water

We've all heard chat this winter about the ongoing dry and predictions of El Nino. While it's still early days, it's a good time to remind people how the shire's water is managed and how water restrictions are triggered.

Currently Deep Creek Dam remains Eurobodalla's primary source of water, supplemented by pumping from the Tuross and Deua Rivers. Although construction of a second dam in the south of the shire is well underway, it will take some time and significant rainfall before it comes online, around two years.

When Deep Creek Dam drops significantly, water restrictions come into force.

The good news is we came out of winter with Deep Creek Dam at capacity and we can continue to keep it full so long as the rivers flow deeply enough to pump from.

When Deep Creek Dam drops significantly, water restrictions come into force. If this happens, we let the community know through local media outlets, our own social media, and other channels (our website, Council News e-newsletter), and printed signs across the shire.

In the meantime, we always recommend homes and businesses practice water conservation measures like watering gardens before 10am or after 4pm, washing vehicles on grass areas to maximise water, cover pools and outdoor spas when not in use, and using a broom - not a hose - to clean hard surfaces like driveways and decks.

[Search for 'water restrictions' on our website for comprehensive and up-to-date information on the shire's water storage capacity and how water restrictions are triggered and implemented.](#)

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Tech fighting roadkill

Trial of "virtual fencing" in Longbeach gets thumbs up.

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New lease of life for Moruya landmark.

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Recipe for a dirt road

Find out what goes into keeping our dirt roads smooth.

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What's on Eurobodalla

Find your favourite events and plenty of surprises on the back page.



SAVING WILDLIFE: Council's Zach McAnally, Tom Towers and Courtney Fink-Downes with WIREs volunteer Janelle Renes beside the virtual fence at Blairs Road, Long Beach

Virtually halting wildlife carnage

It's hard to believe something so unobtrusive and deceptively simple as a "virtual fence" could help address the scourge of roadkill on Eurobodalla's roads.

If you have recently driven in the evening into Long Beach, north of Batemans Bay, you may have noticed some unusual posts spaced every 25 metres along the verge for 300 metres on Blairs Road and just over a kilometre along Cullendulla Drive. At the top of each post is a small device which, when struck by car headlights at night, emits an audible alarm and blue and yellow flashing strobe LED lights.

As the car passes, each of the receivers on the posts is triggered in sequence, creating a virtual fence that deters animals like kangaroos, wallabies and wombats from crossing the road in search of food and shelter.

In the eight months after installation of the virtual fence, only five animals were killed.

The virtual fence trial at Long Beach cost \$10,000 to install and was spearheaded by local community environmental group, The Coastwatchers Association, in partnership with Eurobodalla Council and local wildlife rescue group, WIREs, with funding support from the Great Eastern Ranges and the World Wild Fund for Nature Australia.

Cullendulla Drive was selected after being identified through roadkill records as one of the area's most significant hotspots, with hundreds of kangaroos killed in the past decade. Council workers and WIREs volunteers were often collecting up to five dead animals per week from the area. It was the first road in NSW where the virtual fencing was trialled.

In the eight months after installation of the virtual fence, only five animals were killed.

Recently, the fence had some teething issues and lost power, most likely caused by insufficient solar charging in winter because of overshadowing by trees. In just two weeks four animals were killed, highlighting how effective it is when fully operational.

Our natural resource supervisor Courtney Fink-Downes said the trial had been a resounding success – especially because the pilot period included both Christmas and Easter, two of the region's busiest peaks in terms of visitation and road use.

WIREs volunteer Janelle Renes said the small section of virtual fencing had made a huge difference to the number of killed and injured wildlife.

"It's absolutely amazing," she said. "It's a lot less traumatic for the rescuers, carers and Council staff and saves the insurance companies a lot of money from reduced claims. We'd like to see them everywhere."

One unfortunate limitation of the virtual fence is they don't work in areas where the speed limit is faster than 80 km/hr because cars pass too quickly for the virtual fence to be effective.

Council's maintenance coordinator Zach McAnally said collecting roadkill was a responsibility for Council staff who retrieve the carcasses and take them to waste management facilities.

"It's a lot less traumatic for the rescuers, carers and council staff..."

"It's not a pleasant job," Zach said. "And before the virtual fence our workers were having to come out here almost daily to collect hit animals."

The next roadkill hotspot where the virtual fence will be installed is at Dunns Creek Road, between Mogo and Tomakin. In just one week in June three wombats and three wallabies were killed there in five days.

Once again, Great Eastern Ranges and World Wide Fund for Nature has contributed \$10,000 and Council another \$10,000. We're aiming for September installation.



RARE BUZZ: Local citizen scientist Phil Warburton captured this rare photograph of the drone fly *Odyneromyia iridescens*.

Singular image taken on the fly

We understand. Not everyone will be excited by this photo of a fly.

But local photographer Phil Warburton's snap of *Odyneromyia iridescens* – a species of drone fly – is a great example of citizen science at work.

Phil is a regular visitor to the Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden and he has a bit of a thing for insects. He knew this particular fly was unusual, so he logged it on iNaturalist – a platform where nature lovers share observations online.

In next to no time the fly was identified by Victorian naturalist Reiner Richter, later confirmed by US drone fly expert Dr Martin Hauser.

Why is this important? Apart from the few museum specimens, there are no known photos of *O. iridescens* in the wild, and no sightings south of Sydney. Is it a rare species? We don't know, but we do know this is a rare photograph of a rarely sighted creature.

The Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden is open from 9am to 4pm Wednesday to Sunday, and every day during NSW school and public holidays except Good Friday, Christmas Day and Boxing Day. Admission is free.



**EUROBODALLA
REGIONAL
BOTANIC
GARDEN**

**Guided walks, display gardens,
events, Mossy Café.**

Plants, books and artisan goods for sale.

Open Wednesday to Sunday 9am to 4pm.
For holiday opening hours see our website.
www.erbg.org.au

Deep Creek Dam Road, Batemans Bay.



dhurga corner

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

dhurga is the language traditionally spoken by the Yuin people – including local walbanja and brindja Yuin – from south of Nowra to Narooma and west to Braidwood.

Nouns are words that stand for people, places, things and ideas; mother (**minga**), friend (**mudjingaal**), Montague Island (**barunguba**), home (**munggura**), bandicoot (**birdhuulay**), honey (**gawanggal**), east (**ngarawan**) sky (**mirriwarr**).

The dhurga word **njiinj** means ‘this’ or ‘here’. And the word **djiinj** means ‘that’ or ‘there’.

So **mirriwar njiinj** means ‘This is the sky’ or ‘Here is the sky’. And **mirriwarr djiinj** means ‘That is the sky’ or ‘There is the sky’.

And here’s the trick to remembering which is which:

- **njiinj** starts with n, so does the English word near (close by – this, here)
- **djiinj** starts with d, so does the English word distant (further away – that, there)

Thanks for all your feedback on dhurga corner so far – it’s a popular read right across the shire. Please do get in touch to let us know what you’d like to learn about in future editions.

In the meantime, get your hands on a copy of The Dhurga Dictionary and Learner’s Grammar, authored by locals Trish Ellis, Kerry Boyenga and Waine Donovan and available at Eurobodalla Libraries and local bookshops.

You can find previous editions of dhurga corner on our website by searching for ‘Aboriginal culture’.



NEW FRIENDSHIPS: Being new to town, Hazeera brought her son Ibrahim to playgroup each week. They both loved spending time and learning from Eurobodalla local, Heather.

Tested and approved!

Have you seen the ABC TV show called “Old People’s Home for 4 Year Olds”?

The show won awards for its intergenerational experiment which was all about the physical and mental health benefits of bringing together a group of aged care residents and preschoolers.

Our Batemans Bay Library and the University of Wollongong wanted to give it a go. They teamed up to create a 10-week intergenerational playgroup filled with educational activities at the library and a special graduation to finish.

“All my grandchildren are over in England; this group has been such a sensational and happy experience.”

As soon as Margot Knight heard about the playgroup, she rushed to sign up.

“I think I was the first person to enrol because I didn’t want to miss out.”

Margot retired from her paediatric nursing career at the age of 80 and was missing her connection to children.

“All my grandchildren are over in England; this group has been such a sensational and happy experience.”

After the first few weeks, library staff were amazed at the instant bonds formed. It was love at first sight for four-year-old Morgan, who was drawn to the bright colours worn by Margot and quickly dubbed “Granny Margot” from day one. They continue to meet up outside the playgroup.

Through arts and crafts, chasing bubbles, storytime and songs, both children and adults could have fun and learn together.

Three-year-old Ibrahim and his family moved from India to Batemans Bay six months ago. Ibrahim knows three Indian languages and now knows words in English, thanks to the playgroup.



GREAT MATES: Morgan and Margot adore each other. They even got together for a party to celebrate their shared birthdays.

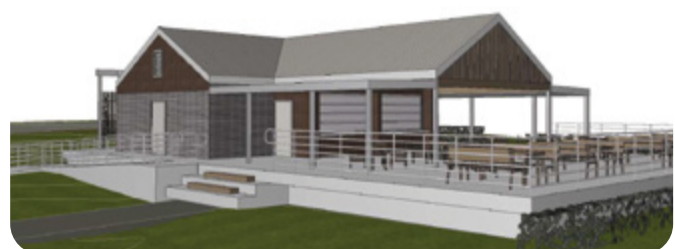
“I was so surprised by the words he has picked up and how much his confidence has grown,” his mother Hazeera said.

“The playgroup has also been great for me to share cultures and learn from others.”

The playgroup was such a success, another will start in October this year. Contact the library to register your interest.

Moruya Showground canteen

Work is underway on the much-anticipated new canteen facility at Moruya Showground.



The existing bar and toilet blocks will be demolished, a heritage shed re-located and a new canteen/toilet facility with disabled access constructed.

Not only will the new building be more suitable for the numerous large events that take place at the site but will also be much more appropriate should the Showground need to be used as a community evacuation centre as it was during the 2019/20 bushfires.

Council’s project manager Chris Teague said construction of the \$900,000 re-development would be undertaken by Council staff, led by in-house carpenters. Funding for the project came through the Black Summer Bushfire Relief fund. Chris said contractors would only be brought in for any specialist work that staff were not qualified to complete.

Summer is a busy time at the showground, with events such as the Moruya Rodeo and Eurobodalla Agricultural Show both taking place in January 2024.

“The existing bar and toilet blocks will be demolished, a heritage shed re-located and a new canteen/toilet facility with disabled access constructed.”

Chris expected the project would take six months to complete but consultations had begun with event organisers to ensure temporary facilities were available if the new canteen and toilet had not been completed by January.

For more information, visit the Major Projects page on Council’s website.



Did you know?

If your property is heritage listed or in a heritage conservation area, you can use our free Heritage Advisory Service.

The service is delivered by our heritage advisor, an independent specialist who provides free advice for things like maintenance, colour schemes, or extensions.

Like Michael and Suellen of the Post and Telegraph said – it can be a big job restoring an old building.

Whether you're taking the first steps to find materials that match or a modern addition like solar panels – our heritage advisor can point you in the right direction.

Our shire's heritage is more than just buildings, the list extends to trees, entire landscapes, and towns.

To help property owners with restoration works, we also offer local heritage grants. See our website or email council@esc.nsw.gov.au

Living within our means

Well into his first year on the job, we canvassed general manager Warwick Winn for his snapshot of Council's current position.

We need to do less, but do it better. That means having the right people in the job and I'm pleased to see we're attracting quality applicants to fill some of Council's chronic staff shortages.

To that end, I've reinstated the position of director of corporate and finance, ensuring the business of Council gets the attention it deserves. Our corporate team are at work on a finance strategy so we can work out what we need to do to step our way out of an \$8 million annual deficit.

That strategy requires we live within our means and we need to refocus and prioritise our work program. We'll concentrate on work you expect to have done, and ensure grant-funded projects align with this work – like upgrading of the shire's 67 public toilets, making sure bins get emptied in the busy holiday season – rather than nice-to-haves we just can't afford.

And to do that, we need to know what you think. I believe we've taken big strides in our communications and approachability, keeping you informed and listening to what you have to say.

For example, our finance director Steph Speedy and I took to the road recently, with community briefings across the shire; explaining Council's financial position and the steps we're taking to address it. These were well received and the questions we took from the floor were excellent and helped us refine our thinking. We delivered the same briefing more recently to all Council staff.

Of course there's always room for improvement – finding different ways to hear from more of you. Right now we're implementing a powerful online community engagement tool that complements in-person chat. Certainly we're excited by the potential.

Stay up to date with our progress towards financial sustainability by searching 'financial forecast' on our website.



OUT AND ABOUT: General manager Warwick Winn visited Narooma Golf Club in July after the course was ranked number one public access course in NSW and the ACT by Golf Australia. He joined club CEO Dominic Connaughton for photos and video to promote the course's premier status.

What brings you here?

The Franklins may be newcomers to the Eurobodalla but they have lovingly taken on one of Moruya's most historically significant, landmark buildings. They share their story in our regular feature about the shire's business owners – the entrepreneurs, the risk takers, the visionaries who keep this beautiful shire of ours changing for the better.

Canberra couple Suellen and Michael Franklin moved to Moruya for its community-feel and a dream of running a bed and breakfast. Inspired by Suellen's parents' bed and breakfast in Yass, they fell in love with the idea as a retirement plan.

In 2020, they purchased the heritage Post and Telegraph building that corners Page and Campbell streets. The Franklins reside downstairs and offer three rooms upstairs for adult guests.

The building was established in 1887 – during the era of horseback mail services. It was sold to private owners in 1997 and converted to a bed and breakfast.

Suellen and Michael fell in love with its charm and set themselves a one-year plan to test the waters. If they didn't enjoy being business owners, they'd turn it into a lovely home.

"It turns out we absolutely love it," Michael said.

Living in a building that's 136 years old has its leaks and creaks. Suellen and Michael knew it would take some effort to get the place how they wanted, so they created a five-year business plan and got stuck into renovations.

A new roof and a whole lot of paint got them started, then came a new kitchen, refurbished hardwood floors, fresh curtains, carpets and interior decoration that pays special attention to local art and heritage.

"An old building takes commitment – it's a lot of work to maintain it. It has been worth it. It's lovely to see how important the building is to locals. People walking past have stopped in to tell us their childhood stories from when it was a post office," Suellen said.

Michael hopes the building stays well after their time.

"We're only temporary custodians of something like this, we feel it belongs to the community," he said.

Another effort worth the mile for Suellen and Michael is showing off local produce and art to their guests.

Michael is the curator and cook of their breakfast menu.

"We've found people really buy into local produce. We love to include as many local suppliers as we can," he said.

Suellen set herself a mission to feature local artists throughout the building.

"I like that visitors get the opportunity to see the amazing talent here."

With a love for art, Suellen found herself volunteering at the Bas and embedding herself in the local SAGE food growing community.

"We wanted to move to a place that was more of a community and Moruya has really ticked that box for us. There's an atmosphere and community feel where people look you in the eye and say good morning or good afternoon and there's always something happening – more things to do than we thought," Suellen said.

"I like that visitors get the opportunity to see the amazing talent here."

Running a business has been a fast learning curve for the couple and after three years hosting guests, they've noticed slumps in business as Eurobodalla's tourism peaks and troughs.

"People don't seem to be spending as they're worried about rising costs and interest rates. But we're hoping to see that change come the start of next year," Michael said.

Michael said a lot of their guests were people passing through, who are surprised by how much they can see and do in the area.

"They end up coming back to stay for two to three nights. We also get bookings from a lot of medical specialists and people coming to Moruya for a business purpose," he said.

During the quieter times, Suellen and Michael carry on with landscaping and renovations. The ideas are endless for the couple whose next project is a coffee station, fireplace and beverage area in the guest lounge.

Visit their website or follow @Postandtelegraphboutique on Instagram to see what Suellen and Michael get up to.

Actions so far

Here's just some of the actions Council has taken to prepare for future fires:

- **Upgraded the coastal route from Batemans Bay to Moruya** so that Beach Road and George Bass Drive can now accommodate heavy vehicles/ freight against highway closures so supplies can continue.
- **Council-managed roads (490 km of them) and public reserves have been prepared/cleared** to a greater extent to lessen the risk of burning vegetation impacting on transport routes.
- **19 local bridges damaged by fire and flood have been replaced** to be significantly more resilient to fire and flood, helping prevent our villages from isolation in disasters.
- **Upgrades, and in the process of doing further work, at the three Council facilities used as evacuation centres during 2019/20 bushfires.** Also, work will commence shortly on a \$900,000 canteen and new toilet block construction at Moruya Showgrounds – a crucial community evacuation centre during the bushfire emergency.
- **Rebuilt our own damaged building infrastructure** to be more resilient against future fires and floods.
- **Opening tips to dump greenwaste for free** for two weeks in September to encourage residents to prepare their properties.

Bushfire ready

With all the coverage in the media about El Nino conditions this summer, we thought it would be a good time to outline and recap all that Council has put in place and advocated for in the event of the next bushfire season – whenever that may be.

While anything might happen in the coming few months, we all remember the bushfires of 2019/20 and so preparation is key – both for Council and for the community.

During those fires immense strain was put on Eurobodalla. Nearly 80 per cent of the Council area was burned and over 2,000 buildings, including 500 homes, were destroyed. The highway was cut and the community isolated for long periods. Utilities like power and communications were also lost.

Since this disaster Council has been determined to learn the lessons of that terrible summer. Community groups have also lobbied intensively on bushfire preparedness and actions such as the establishment of heat and bushfire refuge centres.

Eurobodalla Council takes the issue of bushfire preparation very seriously, however there are statutory limitations to what Council is allowed to do. Our local emergency management officer is a member of the regional emergency management team that comprises police, SES, RFS and other emergency services. That group determines the response to emergencies.

It is important to remember that in times of crisis Council is not the decision-making authority for emergency responses and decisions such as the location of evacuation shelters – that will depend on the location and nature of the incident and is determined by the lead agency.

During disasters such as the 2019/20 fires Council is required to follow instructions from the responsible state agencies. Council is also instructed by the state agencies in terms of hazard reduction in particular areas.

In addition to on-the-ground works, Council has also vigorously advocated for numerous actions and responses including:

- Achieved upgrades and ongoing maintenance of the Mount Wanderer telecommunications tower
- A dedicated local emergency services precinct in Moruya, currently in progress
- A higher standard of construction and asset protection zones for new developments to be more resistant to fire
- Extra funding for the Rural Fire Service so they can better educate the public



- Giving property owners more ability to establish larger asset protection zones with less red tape
- Increased management of fuel loads by National Parks and State Forests including increased use of Indigenous fire management
- Introduction of responsive funding arrangements to cover government agency staff in emergencies
- Review arrangements for evacuation centres to enable quicker mobilisation and better management by state agencies
- Funding for critical infrastructure to make it more resilient in emergencies – telecommunications, power supplies, the arterial road network; water and sewer; hospitals and schools
- Requiring businesses such as food retailers, service stations and aged-care providers to ensure they are able to continue operating, particularly with regard to alternate power in preparedness for power failures.

As summer approaches it is also time ensure that every Eurobodalla landholder reviews their own bushfire readiness.

We urge you to check out the RFS website – most importantly their Bushfire Survival Plan – to ready your own property in case of a high fire-risk season.

Catch a Councillor

Your councillors are your voice.

There are several ways to get in touch with them apart from calling or sending an email. You can make a presentation at either Public Forum or Public Access. Public Forum is now part of the Council Meeting held on the third Tuesday of each month, where you can present to councillors about any topic on the meeting agenda. Public Access is held on the first Tuesday of the month – you can speak on any Council-related topic at all.

Councillor Catch Ups are held once a month and rotate through different locations across the shire. Here you can chat informally with your councillors – raise issues, provide feedback, ask for information, you name it.

Find out more on our website by searching for 'Councillors'.

Need a little structure?

Tiny homes are big just now. They're affordable. Needing less resources to build and run, they're easier on the environment than larger homes. And when you find a new job – a new life! – you can hook up your neat little home and take it with you.

Demand is high, with tiny home builders right here in Eurobodalla. But even proponents say tiny homes are not for everyone. From Council's point of view, there are rules and regulations in place to ensure tiny homes are safe, don't upset neighbours or damage the environment.

In NSW, all tiny homes built on a trailer are treated like a caravan; where a property already has a primary home built on it the tiny home can be used by the family as an extra dwelling.

One thing we've done in our shire that's made tiny home living more accessible is update our water and sewer headworks policy to exempt secondary dwellings that don't exceed 60 square meters – a significant cost saving.

It's different on undeveloped land where, under current NSW legislation, you can only reside in your tiny home for two consecutive nights, up to 60 times each year.*

There's no two ways about it, if you want to park your tiny home on your five pristine riverfront acres for permanent living, you'll be needing a Council development application.

Whatever your situation, we have a free Development Help Desk (4474 1231) with experienced staff who can guide you along the road to approval or exemption – it's always easiest when you seek advice upfront. Or search for 'tiny home' on Council's website.



LESS IS MORE: Jackson Dannock and Matt Fletcher of Made By Bare. They specialise in small-footprint prefabricated buildings, designed and manufactured here in the Eurobodalla.

*Following the 2019-20 bushfires, Council advocated for the 60-night restriction to be eased for fire-affected properties; a two-year exemption allowed people to reside in caravans/tiny homes for that time.



GRADER GURUS: Council's G-Team (l-r) Shane Bogdanovic, Brendan Rolfe, Terry Love, G-Team leader Johnno Dudley and second year apprentice Angus McIntyre.

Recipe for a dirt road

The grader team, known to us as the G-Team, are the 'chefs' of our unsealed road network. The team know the recipe like the back of their hands – how to grade the shire's 400 kilometres of unsealed roads.

It's no saucepan and spoon to get this job done, but instead a 15-tonne grader, a roller, water truck, and a ute full of tools.

The G-Team follow a schedule from north to south of the shire, and back again. They also head way out west, as far as 50 kilometres past Nerrigundah. Bus routes and busy roads are graded twice a year which means an average of 530 kilometres of dirt road is graded each year.

Bus routes and busy roads are graded twice a year which means an average of 530 kilometres of dirt road is graded each year.

Head chef of the G-Team is John "Johnno" Dudley. He has been with us for 25 years. He talks us through the recipe for grading a dirt road:

"We rock up to the section of road ready for maintenance and put our signs out before getting to work clearing drains of any litter or debris.

"We rip into gnarly parts of the road, dragging the teeth of the grader 100-200mm deep.

"To get the road's formation back, the grader and the roller work together to reshape and recompact.

"We also make sure the tail-outs are doing their job. These are the dead-end-looking side roads which are necessary to drain water off the road."

Johnno said it's like baking a cake.

"It's important to add water to bind it all together."



A water truck keeps the road moist and the dust down.

"Water keeps everything intact, so the road doesn't crumble over the next couple of days."

"It's important to add water to bind it all together."

The G-Team keeps an eye on the weather because too much rain will turn their cake into slop and too little rain means they'll need double the water to get the job done.

As well as grading, the team also re-sheets sections when required. The average cost of gravel per one-kilometre of road is \$30,000.

Find our unsealed road work schedule at esc.nsw.gov.au/currentworks

Handy work outside the workshop

Standing on a viewing platform, taking in a huge gulp of ocean air makes you feel alive, doesn't it? Alive and in love with where we live.

Our metal work wizards Brian and Cam loved getting out of the workshop to make the magic happen at Malua Bay's new viewing platform.

Installing the curved handrail was a tricky one, but they aced it!

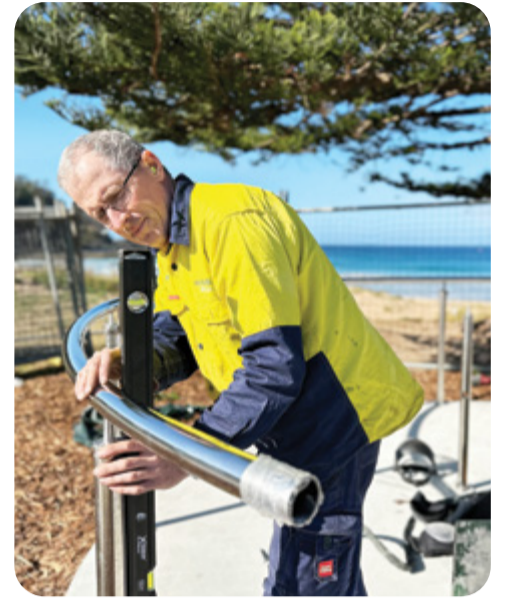
With the wind slapping them about, they managed to navigate the welding and manoeuvre 60-metres of metal railing in place.

We are loving the curved railings at some of our newest platforms like Observation Point and now this one at Malua Bay. Brian said a lot of their metal work jobs go unnoticed, so it's nice to see their work make it in the spotlight.

"Most of the stuff we do in the workshop ends up underground or out of sight in pits and pipelines."

"When I drive past some of the handrails I built, I point them out to my kids."

At Malua Bay, the workshop team measured out the site, then prepared all the bases and footings, drilled and welded the posts for the railing.



CURVE ENTHUSIASM: It's an extra effort to install a curved handrail, but well worth it. Brian spent the morning manoeuvring the railing with his apprentice at Malua Bay.

"Once you get everything on site, things are never perfect. There might be the slightest raise in concrete which throws the radius out."

Brian said the tape measure and level got a workout on this job: "It has to look straight."

There's more to come for the Malua Bay Beach Reserve upgrade this spring. A playground is being designed and manufactured off site and will soon be installed as well as a new amenities block, picnic shelters and landscaping.

For project details and updates visit the Major Projects page on Council's website.

Pothole patrol

If there is one upside to the recent run of dry weather it is that Council has had the opportunity to double down on efforts to repair our roads after several years of heavy rain.

In late 2022, the NSW government awarded councils priority funding under the Fixing Local Roads and Regional and Local Roads Repair Programs to address significant damage after several wet weather events that impacted the state's road network.

This year our tally included the repair of 3,778 potholes and 8,352 square meters of heavy patching; a total of \$1.2 million in grant funding invested in repairing Eurobodalla's roads.

A further \$1.18 million dollars in grant funding is expected to be spent delivering priority works by the end of February 2024.

The extra money has given Council the financial ability to address community concerns more quickly and our road maintenance team has been working hard to uphold Council's commitment to deliver efficient, safe, and reliable roads across the shire.

Nice town, beautiful setting, but...

It's the northern gateway to the shire, but Batemans Bay has some challenges: lack of housing diversity, a seasonal economy, and holiday traffic. With challenges come opportunities.

There's opportunity to build a stable economy, introduce housing choice, quieten residential streets – help this town reach its potential. We're writing a plan that's looking to the Bay's future and we want to hear from you.

In coming months we'll be asking and listening to your ideas; at public meetings, at workshops and online too.

Follow Council's Facebook page and sign up to our digital newsletter Council News to stay up-to-date with when and where these events are coming to you.



South Moruya Growth Area

On the southern fringes of Moruya are 13 private properties that are mostly undeveloped, sleepy, rural paddocks.

But behind the scenes, the area is the focus of a huge effort across almost all divisions of Council to work with landowners, adjacent residents and the broader community to decide how to best develop the properties for much-needed new housing.

While Council staff consult with the community to determine the kind of housing development they want to see on the blocks, work has begun on Council land in Moruya's south to upgrade infrastructure that will support whatever development path is ultimately decided upon.

These large infrastructure works will be funded by an \$11.5 million grant from the state government to increase housing supply that must be spent by June 2026 and will include new and upgraded stormwater and sewer works, roads, and shared pathways. Council will contribute 3.4 million.

"What kind of place do we want this to be?"

One of the guiding principles for the Council team leading the South Moruya Growth Area project is to provide cycling and pedestrian links to the township, the new hospital and schools, that will benefit future and existing residents. For example, increase in traffic from new housing will be mitigated by traffic calming roadworks and paths that will make accessing the town centre more convenient and pleasant.

Manager of strategic planning Liz Rankin said the over-arching question she and her team were engaging with the community on was: "What kind of place do we want this to be?"

"Our goal is to create a new neighbourhood that people are attracted to and want to live in. We have started the process of talking to landowners and collaborating with them to achieve these outcomes."

Where to go with waste

Surf Beach waste management facility

311 George Bass Drive, Surf Beach. Phone 4471 2462

Open: Monday to Friday 7am to 4.45pm, weekends and public holidays 8am to 3.45pm

Closed: Christmas Day, New Years Day, Good Friday and Easter Sunday

Moruya transfer station

21 Yarragee Road, Moruya. Phone 4474 5924

Open: Monday to Sunday and public holidays 8am to 3.45pm

Closed: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Christmas Day, New Years Day, Good Friday and Easter Sunday

Brou waste management facility

1 Brou Lake Road, Dalmeny. Phone 4476 8310

Open: Monday to Friday: 7am to 4.45pm, weekends and public holidays: 8am to 3.45pm

Closed: Christmas Day, New Years Day, Good Friday and Easter Sunday



This ad is courtesy of feedback from regular reader Charles following the previous edition of Living in Eurobodalla.

If you have ideas or feedback, let us know by emailing council@esc.nsw.gov.au



Eyes on assets by e-bike

Our asset inspectors are on a roll...cutting by half the time it takes to inspect 140 kilometres of the shire's pathways.

Alyshia is one of two Council asset inspectors and was first to test out the new e-bike this year. It now takes three weeks instead of eight to inspect our shared pathways and footpaths.

Alyshia loves working outdoors and said pathway and causeway inspections were her favourite.

"I love that my role takes me to so many locations within the shire. One day I could start the day inspecting causeways at Belowra and finish along the Wagonga Inlet."

Asset inspectors make sure all our roads and infrastructure are up to scratch and safe. They head out to inspect assets according to Council's inspection calendar. Some assets require extra inspections each year, such as gross pollutant traps.

When Alyshia first started in the role four years ago, she was blown away by the number of assets owned and managed by Council.

There are 620 kilometres of sealed roads and 400 kilometres of unsealed roads to inspect...

There are 620 kilometres of sealed roads and 400 kilometres of unsealed roads to inspect as well as less obvious things like 27 tide flaps and 8,588 stormwater pits, as well as 149 carparks and 66 bus shelters.

Off the calendar, it's things like trees blocking roads and other incident responses where inspectors kick into action to organise the right work crew to get the job done.

Alyshia's fun facts



1. Council manages over \$1.7 billion worth of community infrastructure.
2. We inspect 27 tide flaps, which range in size from 450-1800mm in diameter. They are located in low lying areas adjacent to waterways and mitigate the surge of ocean water up into Council's stormwater system.
3. After heavy weather events we head out to inspect low-lying roads, and if impacted we close them to ensure road safety. We're all trained to use chainsaws and remove trees across the road when required.

4. Twice a year we inspect 21 gross pollutant traps, otherwise known as GPTs. They're basically giant underground holding facilities that collect rubbish and foreign material in our stormwater network that would otherwise make its way into our waterways. When near capacity we arrange cleaning where we find sediment, leaf litter, general waste, tennis balls, and I once found a skateboard!
5. We look after a section of the Kings Highway from the roundabout in Batemans Bay to above Pooh Bear's corner on behalf of Transport for NSW. We do a weekly safety inspection and our 'mountain crew' is responsible for all maintenance works.
6. We make sure our local roads remain clear of debris. This includes injured wildlife. Last year I organised a WIRES-run workshop for our crews on how to rescue wildlife and the importance of pouch checking. All our maintenance trucks carry joey rescue pouches and we've placed multiple joeys and wombats in the care of WIRES since. This is something positive in an otherwise sad situation.

WHAT'S ON

September-November 2023

For more events in Eurobodalla, visit whatson.eurobodalla.com.au

September

Saturday 2 September Sydney Comedy Festival Showcase 2023, Bay Pavilions, Batemans Bay, 8-10pm. Tickets \$38, baypavilions.com.au

Sunday 3 September Guided garden walk, Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden, Batemans Bay, 11am. Free. erbg.org.au

Raising confident teens workshops
Parents and teens can learn self-esteem exercises and practical tips. Suitable for ages 12 and up. Free, bookings required. esc.nsw.gov.au/events

Monday 4 September Batemans Bay Library, 4-5.30pm; Thursday 7 September Moruya Library 4-5.30pm; Tuesday 12 September Narooma Library, 4-5.30pm

Home composting and worm farming workshops, Moruya Waste Transfer Station, 21 Yarragee Road, Moruya. Free, bookings essential, esc.nsw.gov.au/events
Worm farming Friday 8 September, 12-1.30pm; Saturday 9 September, 12-1.30pm; Friday 15 September, 9.30-11am; Saturday 16 September, 12-12.30pm

Home composting Friday 8 September, 9.30-11am; Saturday 9 September, 9.30-11am; Friday 15 September, 12-1.30pm; Saturday 16 September, 9.30-11am

Saturday 9 September I am Woman, Bay Pavilions, Batemans Bay, 8pm. A rollicking, raucous celebration of songs and stories from 1960s Australia. Tickets \$38, baypavilions.com.au

Wednesday 13 to Sunday 24 September Sculpture walk, Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden, Batemans Bay, 9am-4pm. Discover quirky, provocative pieces from sculptor Paul Dimmer as part of the River of Art Festival. Free, erbg.org.au

Thursday 14 September Author talk: Emily Brugman, Moruya Library, 5-7pm. Discuss her first novel, *The Islands*. Refreshments provided, free, bookings essential, esc.nsw.gov.au/libraries

Saturday 16 September Outdoor garden cinema, Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden, Batemans Bay, 6.30-8.30pm. Bring a chair or a picnic blanket to watch the Aussie favourite, *Così*. Rated MA15+, tickets \$15, erbg.org.au

Music at the Garden, Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden, Batemans Bay. Free, erbg.org.au

Saturday 16 September, Sandy and the Moochers, 12-3.30pm; Saturday 23 September, Sandy and the Moochers, Rhythm Vampires, 12-4pm

The Adventures of Snugglepot and Cuddlepie, Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden, Batemans Bay. Tickets \$22, under 3 years free, erbg.org.au

Saturday 23 September, 1pm; Sunday 24 September, 10.30am

Sunday 24 September Hans, Disco Spektakular Tour 2023, Bay Pavilions, Batemans Bay, 7pm. Award-winning comedy cabaret show. Tickets \$70 - \$75, baypavilions.com.au

Saturday 30 September Spotlight wildlife walk, Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden, Batemans Bay, 7-9.30pm. Led by forest ecologist Craig Dunne, bring a torch if you have one. Ages 12 and up. Tickets \$20, erbg.org.au

October

Sunday 1 October Breakfast with the birds Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden, Batemans Bay, 7.30-9.30am. A guided walk to spot some of the 130 bird species at the Garden, followed by a hearty breakfast. \$25, bookings essential, erbg.org.au

Sunday 1 October Kids' discovery walk Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden, Batemans Bay, 11am-12pm. Children under 12 can explore what lives in and under the plants. Free, bookings essential, erbg.org.au

Wednesday 4 October 3Bs picnic with Tiny Zoo, Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden, Batemans Bay, 10am-12pm. Free, bookings essential, erbg.org.au

Kids' theatre workshops
Ages 8 to 12 can learn fundamental drama and acting skills from members of the Bay Theatre Players. \$5, bookings essential, esc.nsw.gov.au/libraries

Wednesday 4 October, Narooma Library, 10am-12pm; Wednesday 4 October, Moruya Library, 2-4pm; Thursday 5 October, Batemans Bay Library, 10.30-11.30am

Friday 13 October John Waters, Radio Luxembourg, Bay Pavilions, Batemans Bay, 7.30pm. Celebrate the songs of the British Pop Invasion that changed modern music forever. Tickets \$38, baypavilions.com.au

Saturday 14 October Book-writing workshop, Basil Sellers Exhibition Centre, Moruya, 12.30-3.30pm. Author Sharon Halliday guides participants on how to break through the barriers and make writing their book a priority. \$120, bookings essential, thebas.com.au

Plant swap and bird-friendly gardening talks
Bring weeds from your garden to exchange for native plants. Learn how you can build a sustainable, bird-friendly garden at home. Free, bookings essential, esc.nsw.gov.au/libraries

Monday 16 October, Moruya Library, 10.30-11.30am; Monday 16 October, Batemans Bay Library, 2.30-3.30pm; Wednesday 18 October, Narooma Library, 11am-12pm

Wednesday 18 October Brave Blue World film screening, Batemans Bay Soldiers Club, Batemans Bay, 6-7.30pm. Featuring Matt Damon, Liam Neeson, and Jaden Smith, this special screening explores new technologies and innovations. Rated PG, free, bookings essential, esc.nsw.gov.au/events

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

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

river of art

River of Art Festival

Friday 15 to Sunday 24 September
Art exhibitions, open studios, music, theatre, markets, presentations and workshops. Festival program at riverofart.com.au

Thursday 19 October Wildflowers, Bay Pavilions, Batemans Bay, 11am. Australian artists Melissa Fraser, Raychel Stone, and Clare Quinn share songs from Dolly Parton, Linda Ronstadt, and Emmylou Harris. Tickets \$35, baypavilions.com.au

Saturday 28 to Sunday 29 October Clarkes Gambit, Budawang National Park, Nelligen. Two-days of gravel cycling with short, medium, and long courses, and an overnight social ride. Entry \$38, raceroster.com

November

Wednesday 1 November Author talk: Meredith Jaffé, Batemans Bay Library, Hanging Rock Place, Batemans Bay, 5.30-7pm. Hear from the bestselling author about her process and inspiration. Light refreshments provided. Free, bookings essential, esc.nsw.gov.au/libraries

Friday 3 November The 2 of Us Encore, Bay Pavilions, Batemans Bay, 8pm. Legends of musical theatre, soprano Marina Prior and tenor David Hobson present new and classic songs, along with backstage tidbits and life stories. Tickets \$34.95-\$69.95, baypavilions.com.au

Sunday 5 November Guided garden walk, Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden, Batemans Bay, 11am. Free. erbg.org.au

Speechie library talks
Speech pathologist Claire Price shares advice about helping your child develop their language skills before they start school. Free, bookings essential, esc.nsw.gov.au/libraries

Tuesday 7 November, Moruya Library, 10.30am-11.30am; Tuesday 7 November, Narooma Library, 11am-12pm; Wednesday 8 November, Batemans Bay Library, 11am-12pm

Thursday 9 November Remembrance Day author talk: Kevin Setter, Moruya Library, Moruya, 10.30-11.30am. Hear from local author Kevin Setter about his latest publication, *History of the Moruya RSL*. Free, bookings essential, esc.nsw.gov.au/libraries

Saturday 11 November Traditional basket-weaving workshop, Basil Sellers Exhibition Centre, Moruya, 12.30-3.30pm. Learn the art of creating baskets using natural materials and time-honoured techniques from Walbunja-Brinja Yuin woman, Daphne Parsons. Tickets \$120, thebas.com.au

Saturday 11 to Sunday 19 November Pollinator Week, Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden, Batemans Bay. Honey tastings, guided walks, science and gardening talks, kids' craft, art exhibitions and demos. erbg.org.au

Wednesday 15 November Historical music chat, Narooma Library, 2.30-3.30pm. Enjoy an afternoon of musically accompanied anecdotes presented by Ian Ezzy. Free, bookings essential, esc.nsw.gov.au/libraries

Friday 17 November Darren Coggan, The Poems, Prayers & Promises of John Denver, Bay Pavilions, Batemans Bay, 7.30pm. Tickets \$60 - \$65, baypavilions.com.au

Friday 17 November Crank It Up, Batemans Bay foreshore and Soldiers Club. Three-day rock'n'roll festival features live rock and swing bands, classic custom car and bike demos, dance lessons, and a vintage retro market. Free, crankitupbatemansbay.com

Saturday 18 November The Marais Project, Bay Pavilions, Batemans Bay, 7.30pm. The creative chamber music ensemble focuses on baroque era music. Tickets \$30-\$32, baypavilions.com.au

Wednesday 29 November Author talk: Dr Dianne McInnes, Narooma Library, Narooma, 2.30-3.30pm. Learn how authors investigate and write about true crime. Free, bookings essential, esc.nsw.gov.au/libraries

Markets

SAGE Farmers' Markets Moruya Tuesdays, 3pm-5pm Riverside Park, Shore Street, Moruya. Award-winning market showcasing local produce. sagefarmersmarket.org.au

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

Moruya Country Market Saturdays, 8am-12.30pm, Riverside Park, Shore Street, Moruya. Live music, arts and crafts, food, coffee, fresh produce, clothing, books. moruyacountrymarket.com.au

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

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

Dalmeny Community Markets Second Sunday of the month, 8am-12pm, Dalmeny Community Hall, Mort Avenue. Handmade focus - clothing and jewellery, local produce, plants, art.

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

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