

Living in

EUROBODALLA

Community news from your Council

IN BRIEF

Sit to get fit

There's no need for expensive Instagram-worthy yoga mats to enjoy better balance of body and mind. Whatever your age or ability, chair yoga is a perfect practice to help let tension go, from head to toe, and it's back on at Eurobodalla Libraries.

Under the care of a qualified teacher and using a chair for the support, there's an hour to practice modified poses, breathwork and contemplation while sitting. So wherever you are in the shire, get along to your local library each month to enjoy some mellow movement and mindfulness.

Sessions now monthly: Narooma every second Tuesday from 2-3pm, Moruya every first Thursday 10.30-11.30am, and Batemans Bay last Tuesday from 2-3pm.

Exposing sustainability

Hold onto your eco-friendly hats because we've got some new events lined up for you.

We've teamed up with SAGE to host food preserving workshops and have organised a bus tour to sustainable homes in Eurobodalla.

Our popular clothes swap events are back alongside plant swaps throughout the year. Keep an eye on our website, socials, and local media for details.

Clear your calendars for the main event – the Sustainable Choices Expo on Saturday 14 September.

Picture this: stalls showing off cutting-edge sustainable tech, businesses spilling the beans on their brilliant ideas with lively presentations and panel discussions.

If you want to be involved in the expo, hold a stall, workshop or discussion, register your interest by filling out the form on our website.



LABOURING LEGEND: Bodalla local and gun on the ground, Jason Bryan, cleans out a seam of the dam wall foundation with high-pressure air.

Time to build a dam wall

Guess you could say it's a rocky start to building a dam! What a mighty effort by construction crews, reaching a massive project milestone.

This time last year, our Living in Eurobodalla update on the southern dam project talked about the pump station and temporary coffer dam.

Now that's complete, we're up to building the dam wall on this multi-million dollar water supply, just west of Bodalla. But before sending in truckloads of materials to build it, a fair bit of work went into the foundation to create a sturdy base.

First, crews excavated down in search of suitable rock.

The rock foundation was then cleaned with high pressure air or water, vacuums, blowers and brooms. The foundation was inspected by a team of geologists to locate any seams of clay or erodible material on the surface.

More about these seams shortly ...

Nobody wants a leaky dam, but it's impossible to stop water from seeping through the ground, deep below the dam wall. This is minimised with a grout curtain. This was the next stage where crews scouted for seams in the rock to fill them with grout.

A grout curtain isn't as simple as it sounds. First, a one-metre-deep trench is cut along the middle of the foundation and filled with concrete. A series of holes as deep as 40 metres are then drilled through this concrete strip and filled with grout.

It was a complex mission, drilling over 700 hundred holes and using over 300,000 kilograms of grout.

Continued on page 2.

Our shire aspires

With each new term of Council, we update Eurobodalla's Community Strategic Plan to reflect the shire's changing priorities and aspirations. You may have noticed us out and about, canvassing your thoughts and feelings as we pull together this next plan ahead of Council elections in September.

But we're doing things a little differently this time – using the same engagement tools and questions as our neighbouring councils. This means we'll update our own Community Strategic Plan while also contributing to a regional plan for matters common to all shires in our region.

Of course, there's an online survey, but also pop-up stalls, discussion guide packs for community groups, and even drawing sheets for the young (and young at heart).

Find all things Community Strategic Plan at oureurobodalla.esc.nsw.gov.au with events and engagement, FAQs and handy background information.

Van on the move

If you're hearing "there's nothing for young people to do around here", get in the know at our next youth pop-up.

Our awesome youth team drives to different locations each school term, setting up tunes, snacks and activities to break up routine and make a fun scene for the shire's young people.

For a couple of hours after school, the van and the team behind it transform an empty space into a pop-up playground, offering activities like arts and crafts, sports, gaming, and interactive workshops.

Being on the move also means our youth workers can amp up their social support with cool programs.

Follow [@eurobodalla_youth](https://www.instagram.com/eurobodalla_youth) on Instagram to find out where the van will be throughout the year, along with our other events and activities for young people.

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New dirt on trails

With Mogo's MTB tracks half done, what can riders expect?

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Our pick of the plots

Shire cemeteries invoke passion and precision.

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Garden accolades

Our Botanic Garden staff know their stuff.

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What's on Eurobodalla

Your favourite events and some surprises too.



A hole lot happening

Continued from page 1. To finish the dam wall foundation, the high-pressure air, vacuums and brooms came out again.

It's important to remove any shallow seepage paths directly underneath the wall which could lead to a dam disaster – so these seams were dug out, some one metre deep, and filled with concrete.

The foundation is finished with one more final clean before being sealed with sprayed with concrete 150-millimetres thick.

Soon, materials will roll in for the dam wall. Trucks will haul clay and sand from Blue Ridge Quarry on Nerrigundah Mountain Road to the site over the next seven to nine months.

With project milestones approaching and tasks ramping up, Haslin Constructions have had more than 40 workers on the ground finishing the foundation, building the spillway, and stockpiling material for the dam wall.

The dam is still on track to be completed later this year. When we start filling with water depends on rain and the flow of Tuross River.

Checkout this birds-eye view of the dam site in October.

The concrete strip in the foreground is the foundation for the core of the dam wall and where the grout curtain is - extending from right to left, it is about 450 metres long.

Behind the dam wall foundation is a cleared section, ready for 3,000 megalitres of water. You can see the outlet tower in the middle - the giant gadget that draws water at different levels.

Also pictured is a steel outlet pipe leading away from the tower, being covered in concrete. This pipe will send that liquid goodness under the dam wall and to the treatment plant before it hits your taps.

Behind the tower is the temporary coffer dam which had the big job of diverting water during all that rain so work could continue.

At front left is the spillway – if the dam reaches capacity – the water will flow around the dam wall instead of lapping over the top of it.



ON THE JOB: Six years helping the shire's job seekers to date, Amy Kovacs, Rhonnie South and Karen McLellan will continue their employment revolution for at least two more years thanks to new funding.

Time to open a new door? Enter the Job Shop

The one-stop shop for all your employment needs is here to stay a while longer.

We opened our Job Shop in Moruya in 2018 thanks to a state government grant and we've just had news of more funding to keep us up and running for the next two years.

So what's in the shop? A team of clever employment specialists who help job seekers and employers find each other. The trio also create initiatives that boost employment in our shire. For instance, they collate a weekly list of all local job vacancies to share on social media and with other employment agencies. They visit local schools helping students with resumes, and there's a new program for youth to gain work experience in aged care. Wherever there's a need, the Job Shop team is looking at ways to help – they've even kitted out young tradies strapped for cash with hi-vis and boots to help them start work.

For people living with disability, the Job Shop has an inclusive hiring list of businesses in our community offering jobs to people of all abilities.

They've pulled together a free employment pack to keep jobseekers organised with everything they need, and for businesses looking to recruit, they've got a how-to-guide for effective job ads and know all the modern ways to successfully recruit.

Search 'Job Shop' on our website for more info and to sign up for weekly job alerts. Call the team on 4474 7380.



Flea's craft alters rubbish attitudes

"It's the art that helps me reach a whole new audience!"

Early 2020 and passionate ocean advocate Bernadette Davis – Flea to her friends – created Castaway Textiles on Instagram, featuring her beautiful vessels and lighting made from ocean rubbish.

"It's important to showcase solutions, rather than harp on about the problem of marine debris. That's the premise behind Castaway Textiles," says Bernadette.

"It's less about promoting my work and more about showing how beautiful, functional things can be made from the rubbish and waste found in landfill and oceans. The waste stream is an incredible resource if we just take time to think about it."

According to Bernadette, it's all about changing community attitudes. And they are changing. She remembers 'World Environment Day' when she was growing up.

"Only one day each year to reflect on our impact on the planet. Now when I visit schools, I see environmental values woven into the landscape and the curriculum. Government, organisations, business and communities are finding ways to capture and reuse waste, and to avoid making it in the first place."

It's making a difference.

"Now when we run a beach clean-up there are many types of litter and debris previously commonplace that no longer turn up at all. And often the stuff that does wash up can be reused – it's changing community attitudes that make that happen."

And it's happening more and more.

"I have oyster growers, adventure companies, arborists and a host of individuals who know about my work. They bring me ropes and – more important! – they spread the word."

Like last week. Bernadette was given a long length of glorious, thick yellow rope washed up at Burrewarra Point – now destined to become a luminous lampshade or breezy basket. And maybe just right for your home?

Bernadette is a Tangaroa Blue ambassador – find Castaway Textiles and Tangaroa Blue on Instagram.

COMMUNITY CATALYST: Bernadette Davis has worked at Council for over 30 years, a driving force behind many environmental projects and educational campaigns. Castaway Textiles is her new venture, reframing the way we think about rubbish.

Fast facts

- The three main trail heads are at Mogo, the Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens and Batehaven.
- We're tweaking the trail length to up the quality – but don't worry, you'll still get over 125km of awesome trails.
- You'll need more than a day to ride every trail and weeks to nail the sneaky lines!
- Visitors who come here for mountain biking are likely to spend 178% more than a typical domestic overnight visitor.
- The Batemans Bay Mountain Bike Club started in 2022 and now has well over 100 members.
- A new bike shop has already opened in Batehaven and word on the street is that more businesses and accommodation are in the pipeline to cater for this new tourism market.
- We've been rolling out a Ride Ready industry development program to give businesses an understanding of opportunities mountain biking can present. We've hosted site visits, educational workshops and created a network of local businesses – with 75 Ride Ready participants so far.



BIG RIGS: Compleat Angler's Dash and Rob.

Tackle this

It's not good enough to put used and unwanted recreational fishing tackle in the bin. That just moves it to landfill when so much of it can be reused or recycled.

Instead, drop your unwanted recreational fishing items – fishing line, spools, hooks, sinkers and swivels, lures and floats – in a Rig Recycle bin. These bits and bobs get collected, recorded in a database, then either repaired for reuse or recycled. We've just added two extra bins to the two already in the shire, with potential for more.

Find Rig Recycle bins at Moruya and Surf Beach tips, Ocean Hut Compleat Angler in Narooma, and Tackle World in Moruya.



DECENT DESCENT: Martin Wisata (right) of Rocky Trail Destination with the Next Level MTB crew onsite at Mogo Trails.

What's the dirt on the new trails?

Construction crews are nearing halfway on the new Mogo Trails, set to open mid-year.

Crowds are already rolling into the new mountain bike trails at Narooma since they opened over Christmas. Built by the Narooma Mountain Bike Club using government funding, the feedback from riders has been exceptional with many already planning return visits. With Mogo Trails (which Council is building, also with government funding) to open from the middle of the year, Eurobodalla is set to become a mountain bike mecca.

We're seeing locals starting up new businesses in anticipation of the increased tourism to come, and thanks to our handy reporting tool – Localis - we'll know where riders are coming from, how long they're staying and how much they're spending.

Rocky Trail Destination are our principal contractors with Next Level MTB as their delivery partner doing the hard yards on the ground to build the trails. To gear up non-mountain bikers and keep everyone in-the-know, here's a Q&A style update from Rocky Trail Destination as well as some fast facts from our tourism and economic development team.

Who's building the trails?

We're coordinating Next Level MTB who are building the trails while we've been working on signage, emergency protocols and safety measures to ensure a seamless riding experience.



Where's the build up to?

About 60 kilometres of track has been completed so far, which means we're averaging 240 metres per day.

When will the trails be open and ready to ride?

The network will open in stages, with a significant portion open by the middle of the year. The grand unveiling is slated for early 2025.

How are the trails built?

With 10 small excavators and hard yakka of 25 crew members. The excavators push through a track, then workers go in and groom by hand. They rake and remove smaller rocks and gravel before the excavators come in again to help shape the track with a spray of water for compaction. We then hope for rain, sun, rain, sun, so they bake and get rock hard.

Will the trails be gnarly or beginner friendly?

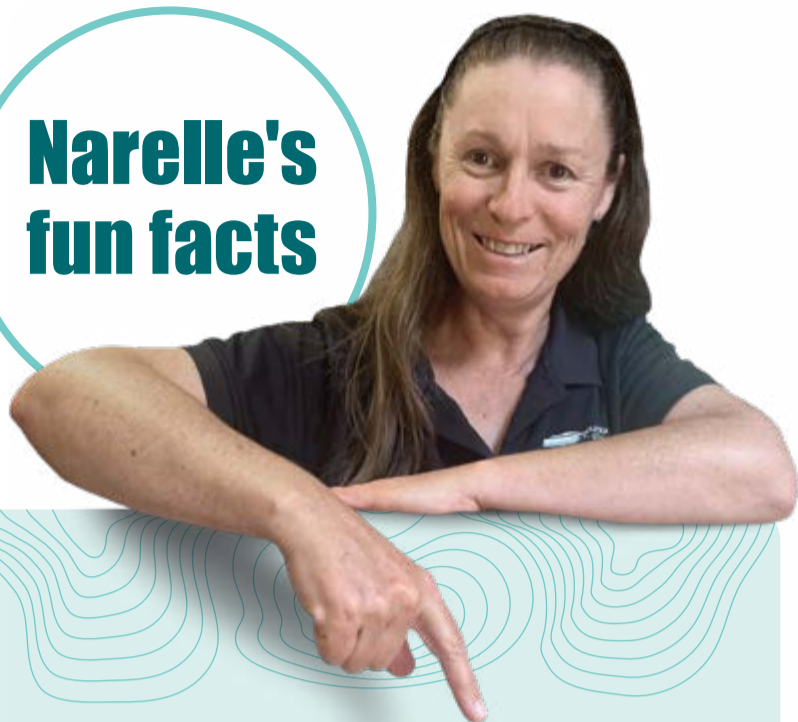
Both! They'll be graded like a ski slope – with colours to match rider skill level. Because it's such a large network it has the luxury to cater for all levels. Easy green trails are perfect for beginners with basic mountain biking skills and decent fitness. The blue ones are where the skilled riders shine, while the black and double black trails are for the pros who've got mad experience and serious technical skills.

Will there be many cool features added along the way?

The builders have a creative licence because there are so many natural features like spectacular gum trees, beautiful ferns and sweeping views over the mountains that can't be ignored. There's a view they came across, looking towards Mogo Wildlife Park, where they built a bench out of rock so riders can have a yarn while they wait for their mates to catch up.

SNEAK PEEK: Trail builders couldn't help themselves – they went ahead and built a rock bench for riders to catch their breath with a view of Mogo Wildlife Park.

Narelle's fun facts



Maps are so much more than folded paper.

Council has a mapping software system used for things like urban planning, environmental management and more. It's called GIS (Geographic Information System) and has many layers of information such as roads, land tenure and assets like water pipes and playgrounds.

Meet Narelle. She is our GIS administrator who maintains the software and manages all the data that's uploaded by our staff. Narelle shares interesting facts about it...

1. **Our parks and gardens crews use GIS to schedule their mows.** They can see when they did their last mow and when the next is due.
2. **If there's a sewer spill or water main burst** in the middle of the night, crews use GIS to pinpoint the nearest stop valves to turn the water off.
3. **The environment team uses GIS to map threatened species** – they also keep track of the exact location they've put nesting boxes.
4. **We receive data from NSW Health on dialysis patients.** So in the event of a water supply disruption, those properties will be given top priority by our crews.
5. **We also get crash data from Transport NSW once a year,** where we map accidents and their severity. This enables us to see trends occurring on our roads and to see if improvements are needed.
6. **The infrastructure and DA teams use GIS to get postal addresses to send letters** to residents about upcoming works.
7. **We subscribe to a program called NearMap,** which supplies us with aerial imagery from a plane that flies over our shire once a year. NearMaps is linked to GIS to help us with town planning and disaster recovery.
8. **We can see every Council asset** and the exact date it was built.





Grave expectation

It's fair to say, our cemeteries staff are passionate people and they're picky too. After all, laying someone to rest is the last thing you'll do for them – you really want to get it right.

For a shire burial at one of Eurobodalla's eight operational cemeteries – at Nelligen, Batemans Bay, Mogo, Moruya, Bodalla, Narooma, Nerrigundah or Tilba - you need to come to us. We also care for three non-operational cemeteries – two at Moruya and one at Congo – and there are a few small historical ones managed by other organisations.

It's possible to request a cemetery plot ahead of time. Interestingly, plots may have up to five occupants; with a maximum of two burials per plot, the remainder being cremations.

We also keep a register of all burials since the mid-1970s. Of course, we have older and historical data too, though this can be incomplete or inconsistent. In 2020 we produced the Historic Cemeteries Conservation Management Study, available on our website, to address this historical lack.

GIS is essential for our cemetery record keeping. It also means we can pull out fun facts like Narooma's oldest burial date - Charles Lusty, buried 6 December 1816 – or the oldest person buried at Narooma - Edna Moulder, buried 3 December 2004, aged 108.

We also use GIS for cemetery management to mark existing and proposed plots so we can, for example, give our machinery drivers an accurate map of where to dig a new plot. Assuming we can fit the backhoe in...sites are so congested at some cemeteries that graves must be dug by hand.

We've also relied on GPS in the redesign and expansion of the Narooma cemetery. Still in the planning stages, the upgrade will see 780 new burial plots in a mix of traditional and lawn-cemetery style, a road upgrade, and formalised carpark with more than 50 spaces.



Playgrounds on point

We manage Eurobodalla's public playgrounds, and we work hard with local communities at each location to ensure these meet their needs. It's easy to find where they are located as we have a clickable map on our website.

Our recreation crew work hard to make sure playgrounds are safe, clean and tidy, and – most of all – fun. They're always looking at ways to make each better – whether that be a quick spruce up or the creation of something entirely new.

We asked the team for their five favourite shire playgrounds and here's what they came up with:

1. **Harold Spindler Reserve, Tilba.** A brand-new playground with looks to match the village.
2. **Rotary Park, Narooma.** Awesome water views with seals and marine life cruising by.
3. **Riverside Park, Moruya.** The flying-fox is a hit – this spot is fun for the kids while the markets are on.
4. **The Variety Inclusive Playground, Corrigan Reserve.** The largest and most accessible playground in our shire.
5. **Long Beach Recreation Park.** The older kids love the half court for some basketball with mates.

But don't forget, this team does much more than playgrounds – they're responsible for so much of our recreation infrastructure – from sports fields to tennis courts, skateparks to swimming pools.

Over the next year you can look forward to a major overhaul at Hanging Rock with new changing facilities, field lighting, irrigation and drainage, and a multi-code rebuild of the playing fields for soccer, AFL, cricket and athletics.

The big upgrade at Malua Bay will see extra shade and BBQs, new toilets and showers, a lovely accessible playground, and viewing platform, all landscaped to blend with beach and village. And Narooma's Bill Smythe oval will be enlarged to full NRL size, with flood lighting and improved drainage, with drainage improvements at Gundry and Dalmeny ovals as well.

Our clickable map on our website also shows you spots with picnic shelters, barbecues, outdoor gyms, water refill stations, public toilets and accessible facilities.



Mobility mats stay out on four beaches

Good news! Our beach mats are here to stay. They got great use this summer and will be rolled out at seven locations ahead of the summer school holidays each year.

We packed up a few mats after lifeguards clocked off for the season, however, volunteer lifesavers are happy to keep an eye on them for us at the four surf club beaches – Malua Bay, Broulee, Moruya and Narooma. You can see where they are on the map to the left.

We learned the mats weren't great at the water's edge – the newest one at Bar Beach in Narooma almost floated away! So, the lifeguards and lifesavers help us roll them out and pack them up to suit the weather conditions.

What's also great news is that each surf club now has a floating beach wheelchair – free for the public to use.

These allow people to reach the water's edge, or even float in the water on a calm day with some helping hands.

To borrow a beach wheelchair, reach out to a surf club directly and a volunteer can meet you at the beach at a time that suits. For more information on beach accessibility and community programs, visit our website.





What brings you here?

Catherine Mullarvey is making a comfortable place where people can practice yoga. She shares her story in our regular feature about the shire's business owners, the entrepreneurs and visionaries who keep this shire of ours changing for the better.

"It's not about putting your body into a pretzel shape... it's making a comfortable place for people to come in and practice yoga."

In four years, That Little Yoga Place has grown from one woman's vision to a sanctuary in the very heart of Moruya - a thriving yoga studio where everyday people visit to connect body and mind.

Never in her wildest dreams had Catherine Mullarvey - known to all as Cat - thought to start a yoga studio when she moved into a place at Moruya Heads back in 2018. Escaping corporate Canberra and a career in human resources, Cat was coast-bound "for a year doing nothing - self reflecting - figuring things out".

In no time at all she was back working a corporate job at Batemans Bay - practicing yoga in her spare time, as she

had for over a decade - before the obvious hit; she hadn't moved from Canberra to repeat that same life here.

"This was the moment, this was it. I decided to open a studio, and I did."

That Little Yoga Place has grown from one woman's vision to a sanctuary in the very heart of Moruya...

Starting small, That Little Yoga Place was registered and online in November 2019 with Cat initially running classes from home in her large downstairs room, while also subbing at different studios around the shire.

"There was a bit of interest, people liked the home-feel, they felt safe."

Three months in and COVID hit. Even when lockdown lifted, social distancing meant Cat couldn't make that downstairs room work. She needed a bigger place and found it above the Air Raid Tavern right in the middle of town. Moving in during February 2021, Cat's venture was too new and too small to be eligible for any government assistance during the second lockdown.

"I kept falling through the cracks."

Three years on and Cat's vision to create a place of connection - for people and for community - has come to life, with an additional six regular teachers and another eight fronting the occasional class. There are also other events, like sound immersions and men's and women's circles.

"I want a community hub but it's not about having heaps going on; there's plenty of good offerings out there but they don't all align with what I want this space to be."

And that space is not your typical yoga studio: It's comfortable, there's carpet, the lights are not bright.

"People can just walk in off the street and feel included. It's like practicing in your own living room"...

"People can just walk in off the street and feel included. It's like practicing in your own living room. If someone wants to do pretzel-type yoga, that's fine but there's plenty of other places they can do that. I'm more interested in the experience they actually need than a class some yoga guru would teach.

"I think, ultimately, I've made a space to help others. But it's not only that - it also contributes to my own life. I'm no sage passing on the wisdom - it's a two-way street."

Fast facts

- **Yoga continues to gain popularity.** Nationally, participation in yoga from 2019 to 2020 rose by 330,000 individuals.
- **There are 32 registered sports and recreation businesses** in Eurobodalla, employing 100 people.
- **Sports and recreation businesses contribute more than \$9.5 million** to the local economy.



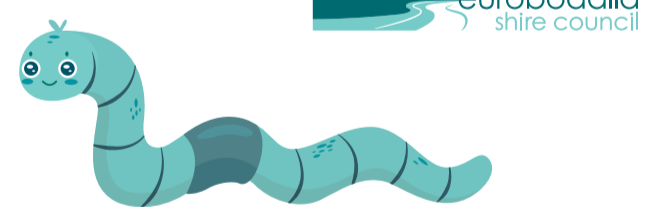
MEETING HEROES: Eurobodalla Mayor Mathew Hatcher spends time making friends at the Moruya emergency services playdate.

Calm kids cope best in emergencies

Since the fires and floods, our Children's Services team reflected on their experiences working with families and how they can help them better prepare for disasters.

While councils don't lead emergency responses, we do have extensive networks and good communication channels. With that in mind, our Children's Services team tapped into their network of families, while the SES reached out to local emergency services. Together, we created a series of playdates with a difference; where families could meet with disaster experts and hear first-hand vital need-to-know information.

It was also a chance for children to meet emergency personnel in a relaxed setting, supported by family, with plenty of time to adjust to flashing lights and sirens, and have some fun with the trucks and equipment up close. Hundreds of families showed up to the playdates during October and November. They were so successful (hello, statewide media coverage) we'll host more later this year.



Free workshops

Get tips and tricks on worm farming or composting at Moruya Transfer Station. After the workshop you'll receive a free kit to get you started.

Composting

- Friday 15 March, 9.30am - 11am
- Saturday 16 March, 9.30am - 11am
- Friday 22 March, 12pm - 1.30pm

Worm Farming

- Friday 15 March, 12pm - 1.30pm
- Saturday 16 March, 12pm - 1.30pm
- Friday 22 March, 9.30am - 11am

Bookings

Call Council's Waste Services on 4474 1024.



Events for the win

Meet Scott McNair, our new events coordinator ...

Scott is a career events guy with tonnes of Sydney council events experience. We were lucky to nab him and his young family late last year, and he's already loving the coast life and the community.

"It's a pretty special place and I love that events down here are community driven. Almost 100 percent of them are run by volunteers and we supported more than 70 of them last year," he said.

"It gives me ambitious and exciting work to do supporting the community without a budget like the bigger city councils."

Scott teams up with Tina Young - our long-standing events officer and well-known to Eurobodalla's events organisers. Together,

they help with all the paperwork and make sure our venues are event-ready. They also offer advice and sometimes access to helping hands, like Council staff and equipment.

"Mounting events is tough. A simple conversation with an expert in the events field can really trickle into a huge outcome," Scott said.

"It's not just permits, licenses or financial support Council can offer. We have traffic experts for parking needs, a waste and sustainability team that know their stuff, as well as access to some clever software

ELEVATING EVENTS: A chat with Scott McNair and Tina Young can get your event up and rolling, ready to go.

for market research and tourism data."

With a new events strategy in the making, Scott's exploring different ways Council can support events.

"We've heard the challenges event organisers are facing and want to make things as simple as possible for them."

"Something I am interested in when developing the 2024-28 events strategy is to discover win-win scenarios, where we can turn problems into solutions for Council and the community," he said.

"If Council has something useful sitting in storage, like a generator for example, let's make it available to help power events."



BUDDING BORROWERS: Moruya library's Claudia Feirer is ready to assist existing and aspiring green thumbs at the Seed Library station.

Green chapter begins at Moruya Library

There's a new chapter for Eurobodalla Libraries – one without books – as the Eurobodalla Seed Library sprouts to life.

Now library members can 'borrow' up to three packets of vegetable or herb seeds from the Moruya library, plant them out, letting one or two plants run to seed for harvesting, then donate some seed back to the library.

To help beginning seed savers bloom, there's a stash of relevant books at the ready for borrowing and the Bega Valley Seed Savers will lead a workshop at the Moruya library on Saturday 23 March, 10.30am-12.30pm, to share information and hands-on techniques.

Donations are also welcome! Please name the variety of seed, date the seed is harvested and growing tips (if you have any).

For more information and your first seed packets, swing by the Moruya library or get in touch with staff on 4474 1333.

EUROBODALLA REGIONAL BOTANIC GARDEN

Guided walks, display gardens, events, Mossy on Gardens 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.

Garlands for the Garden

Not only is the Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden consistently rated among Eurobodalla's top tourism sites but Garden staff continue to pick up accolades.

Congratulations to Garden manager Michael Anlezark, who was presented with National Garden Clubs Australia's Doris Killian Award in recognition of his outstanding community service. Michael was nominated by the Friends of the Garden, testimony to how highly the volunteer group regard Michael's leadership.

Of course, the Garden is so much more than a great spot to picnic, meet for coffee with friends and



reconnect with nature. There's serious work behind the scenes.

Horticultural supervisor Dylan Morrisey knows his orchids and identified East Lynn midge orchids growing wild on site after the 2019-20 bushfires. Dylan joined forces with herbarium curator Tricia Kaye and friend of the Garden Phil Warburton to study the vulnerable orchid's reproductive cycle.

They suggest the orchid is pollinated by a species of small

nectar-eating fly. They also found the orchid flowers were home to many leaf-curling spiders – often with dense webs that prevented fly access or even stopped flowers opening altogether – and even photographed one of the spiders eating a fly.

They also speculate the high spider numbers are due to the fires – normally spider numbers are kept in check by parasitoid wasps that lay eggs directly on spiders which are then eaten by the wasp larvae. Populations of these wasps are known to crash after bushfires and wasp numbers at the Garden are still low.

It's fascinating stuff and it's all been published as 'The spider and the fly: post-fire predation of potential pollinator of the threatened East Lynn Midge Orchid' in the scientific journal *Australasian Plant Conservation*.

WHAT'S ON

March-May 2024

For more events in Eurobodalla, visit whatson.eurobodalla.com.au and esc.nsw.gov.au/events

March

Friday 1 to Sunday 17 March Birds of Australia Storybox, Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden. Visit the Garden to see the Australia Museum's touring outdoor digital installation showcasing native bird life. Free. erbg.org.au

Saturday 17 February to Thursday 28 March Art exhibition: Light Shadow Form Space – 4 conversations, Basil Sellers Exhibition Centre, Moruya, daily, 10am-4pm. View works in a variety of mediums from artists Diane Appleby, Margaret Ainscow, Jo Victoria, and Stephanie Simko. Free. thebas.com.au

Friday 1 March to Saturday 27 April A Woman's Lot exhibition, Moruya Museum. Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays from 10am-12pm. Step into the past with this captivating exploration into women's lives during the early 1900s. Entry \$5 individual, \$15 family, members free. blog.mdhs.org.au

Sunday 3 March Clean Up Australia Day. Organise your own clean-up site or volunteer to join an existing site, cleanup.org.au

Sunday 3 March Sprint Series Adventure Race, Tomakin, 8am-2pm. Beginner-friendly race for teams of two includes paddling, biking, and run/walking sections. Children can race accompanied by an adult. Entry from \$135. adventuresprint.com.au

Sunday 3 March Three Sonatas with Anna Da Silva Chen and Daniel De Borah, St Bernards Catholic Church, Batehaven, 2-4pm. The South Coast Music Society presents these impressive artists performing sonatas for violin and piano. Tickets \$45. trybooking.com

Friday 8 March International Women's Day Lunch, Basil Sellers Exhibition Centre, Moruya, 12.30-1.30pm. Networking, a free lunch and local guest speakers. Bookings essential, esc.nsw.gov.au/events.

Friday 8 to Sunday 10 March, Tuross Head Flathead and Bream Tournament, Tuross River. Annual lure and fly only competition in its 12th year with a prize pool over \$8,000. Entry \$95 juniors, \$155 adults. eventbrite.com.au

Saturday 9 March Introduction to life drawing, Basil Sellers Exhibition Centre, Moruya, 12.30-3.30pm. Artist and art teacher Miriam Shilling guides participants into the world of life drawing. \$120 per person, bookings required. thebas.com.au

Saturday 9 March Get Rhythm: The Johnny Cash and June Carter Show, 7.30pm. Mark and Joanne Caligiuri perform as Johnny and June, backed up by their family band in this tribute to Johnny Cash's earlier years. Tickets from \$40, baypavilions.com.au

Sunday 10 March Hotondo Broulee Bay to Breakers Ocean Swim, 9am. Broulee Surfers SLSC's 13th annual ocean swim is back with an all ages 1.4km event, and 500m junior/ novice event, and a new dash for cash swim. Registration \$25-\$65. oceanswim.brouleesurfersslsc.org.au

Monday 11 March Embracing babies music and morning tea, Albert Bamman Memorial Park, Malua Bay, 10.30am-12pm. Music class for babies and toddlers, led by Jo Steel from Ukebebe. Free. Morning tea provided, bookings required. esc.nsw.gov.au/children

Monday 11 March to Sunday 24 March Seniors' Festival, at different locations across the shire. A comedy festival, morning melodies, daytime shows for people over 60 to remain active, healthy and engaged in their local community. esc.nsw.gov.au/events

Tuesday 12 March Bubs at the beach play date, Long Beach, 10-11.30am. Join this sandy playdate by the water with other bubs, parents, and carers. Free, bookings required. esc.nsw.gov.au/children

Home composting and worm farming workshops, Moruya Waste Transfer Station. Tips, hands on advice and get a free starter kit for each household. Free, bookings required, esc.nsw.gov.au/events

Worm farming Friday 15 March, 12-1.30pm, Saturday 16 March, 12-1.30pm, Friday 22 March, 9.30-11am

Home composting Friday 15 March, 9.30-11am, Saturday 16 March, 9.30-11am, Friday 22 March, 12-1.30pm

April

Wednesday 3 April Info session: Business health check, Narooma Library, 10am-4pm. Meet with a local Business Connect Advisor for one-on-one personalised advice. Free, bookings required. esc.nsw.gov.au/events

Thursday 11 April Bubs at the beach play date, Narooma Beach, 10-11.30am. Walk, talk and play with other bubs, parents, and carers. Free, bookings required. esc.nsw.gov.au/children

Saturday 13 April Currents Battle of the Bands, Moruya RSL Memorial Hall, 4pm-9pm. Live music competition for youth of Eurobodalla. Watch as bands, DJs and solo artists battle on stage for the top prizes. Tickets online. esc.nsw.gov.au/events

Saturday 13 April Colour association workshop, Basil Sellers Exhibition Centre, Moruya, 12.30-3.30pm. Explore how to use colour as communication with artist Amy Schleif. \$120 per person, bookings required, thebas.com.au

Saturday 13 April to Sunday 12 May Art exhibition: Art of the Garden. Opening Friday 12 April, 5.30 to 7.30pm. RSVP required. thebas.com.au

Saturday 13 to Sunday 28 April From the Forest festival, Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden. Exhibitions, workshops, storytelling, and music events across two weeks during the school holidays. erbg.org.au

Monday 15 April 3Bs Leap Frog Active Sports, Mackay Park, Batemans Bay, 10am-1pm. A day full of fun activities, sports, and games for ages 2-12. Free, bookings required. esc.nsw.gov.au/children



Narooma Oyster Festival

Friday 3 and Saturday 4 May

Oyster tastings, cooking demos, food vendors, live music, competitions, and more. Tickets and program at naroomaoysterfestival.com

Wednesday 17 April Ride ready Eurobodalla Mogo Trails networking session, Sunnyside Farm, Mogo, 5.30-7.30pm. A progress update on the Mogo Trails build, hosted by Eurobodalla Council and Batemans Bay Mountain Bike Club. Free. esc.nsw.gov.au/events

Thursday 25 April ANZAC Day, commemorations throughout the shire. Details at esc.nsw.gov.au/events

May

Sunday 5 May Quartet Heartland: Goldner String Quartet, St Bernards Catholic Church, Batehaven, 2-4pm. This string ensemble performs from their repertoire for the South Coast Music Society. Tickets \$45. trybooking.com

Thursday 9 May Info session: Business health check, Moruya Library, 10am-4pm. Get one-on-one personalised advice from a local Business Connect Advisor. Free, bookings required. esc.nsw.gov.au/events

Saturday 11 May Introduction to plant propagation workshop, Basil Sellers Exhibition Centre, Moruya, 12.30-3.30pm. Beginners and experienced growers can learn about plant propagation from Dylan Morrissey, horticulturalist at the Eurobodalla Botanic Garden. \$120 per person, bookings required. thebas.com.au

Monday 13 to Wednesday 15 May, Transition to School information sessions Eurobodalla Libraries. Bookings essential. esc.nsw.gov.au/libraries

Saturday 18 May to Sunday 16 June, Art exhibition: Geoffrey Odgers. Opening Friday 17 May, 5.30 to 7.30pm. RSVP required. thebas.com.au

Wednesday 22 May National Simultaneous Storytime, Eurobodalla Libraries. Read Bowerbird Blues by Aura Parker. Bookings essential. esc.nsw.gov.au/libraries

Saturday 25 May In Good Company: Starring Darren Coggan and Damien Leith, Bay Pavilions, Batemans Bay, 7.30pm. Darren and Damien re-live immortal songs from music history, sharing favourites from Roy Orbison, The Beatles, Elvis Presley, Cat Stevens and more. Tickets from \$60. baypavilions.com.au

Friday 31 May The Eagles Story: Take it to the Limit, Bay Pavilions, Batemans Bay, 8pm. A celebration of and tribute to the iconic rock band, featuring The Eagles' greatest hits and most loved songs. Tickets from \$54. baypavilions.com.au



Sculpture for Clyde

Saturday 25 May to Sunday 2 June

Outdoor, indoor, and student sculpture exhibitions at the Batemans Bay foreshore, free. sculptureforclayde.com.au

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 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, 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 and local produce.

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

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

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