

Living in Eurobodalla

Beyond the economy

Eurobodalla's economy is going gangbusters, but there's much work to be done. It's why our strategic planning team is working on sustainable growth and improving community wellbeing long-term.

Council's Economic Development Strategy 2019-28 is our roadmap to diversifying the shire's economy; attracting investment, supporting businesses and getting the right services and infrastructure. In short, it's about making Eurobodalla an attractive place to live, work and invest – but it won't happen overnight.

Our population is ageing; the economy largely seasonal. Underpinning much of our work is the need to retain and attract younger residents and remote workers – they're the spenders in any economy. But young people want certain things – a vibrant night life, green spaces, transport choices, sustainability, and places with identity. We're planning for the kind of place young people look for – both to live and visit.

"Parts of our economy are going really well, but there's unusual circumstances at play and we know it can change," our economic development and place activation manager Teresa Lever explains. "What we're trying to do is strategically prepare – for a changing demographic, changing workforce and changing opportunities. And it's a long lead time."

For example after it was rezoned, prime housing land sat dormant for up to a decade. We're now seeing the results, with new estates in Dalmeny, Narooma, South Moruya and South Rosedale.

We lobbied for a new hospital and Moruya bypass for years. Now it's happening we want to create a Moruya master plan to get ready for the change.

We've been trialling initiatives to give people a reason to get down to Batemans Bay's beautiful waterfront, both day and night.

Then there's Bay Pavilions, the Mogo Adventure Trails Hub, the coastal headland walking trail, the Botanic Garden; these will help give our shire a point of difference. Of course there's the bread and butter stuff too – making it easier to do business, lobbying for better housing and transport, employing and training local people, improving our infrastructure, tourism marketing, the list goes on.

Economic development underpins much of Council's business - it's all part of the economic picture. It's just so multi-faceted, you can't always see it.



Smoker? Don't be a butt-head

Environment project officer Tom Gear with one of the new butt bins. The butt project is a NSW EPA, Waste Less Recycle More initiative funded from the waste levy.

Incognito doesn't come all that naturally to our environment project officer Tom Gear, but his covert operation to monitor local smokers' butt disposal habits netted big results.

In an Environment Protection Authority-funded project, Tom spent hours hanging out at smoking hotspots. He'd note, on his trusty clipboard, what smokers did with their butts and then asked them why.

Cigarette butts are our most-littered item – about 1.32 billion are littered each year in NSW alone. These little plastic butts present a serious environmental hazard, and they're too easily swept into our waterways and out to sea.

Birds and aquatic animals can mistake them as food or the butts degrade into harmful microplastics. The chemicals in just one butt - think: ammonia, nitrogen dioxide, formaldehyde, cyanide and arsenic – contaminate about 7.5 litres of water.

Of those who Tom observed, up to half littered their butts. He said adding butts to other litter was common, as were "sneaky drops".

"People had the mindset that as soon as it was on the ground it wasn't theirs anymore," Tom said.

"A lot of them also blamed there being other

rubbish around – they thought 'what's one more'. They didn't realise that our Parks staff and local volunteers are constantly cleaning up the rubbish, it just keeps building back up. If people stopped littering, it would be nicer for everyone."

Another excuse was there was no sign saying it was illegal – for others, it's just the way they've always done it.

“People just don't think about it, but if you add up one person's cigarettes littered over the course of a year that's potentially a few thousand.”

Tom's been busy since trying to make it just as convenient for smokers to properly dispose of their butts as it is to litter with purpose-built EPA-funded bins in hotspots – and giant ground stickers and signs to remind smokers they're there.

If it fails, a hit in the hip pocket might do the job. Butt littering attracts an \$80 fine – up to \$450 for a lit cigarette. It's a burning decision: small steps, or a big fine.

Saturday Sessions at the Bas

Local artists have teamed up with the Basil Sellers Exhibition Centre to share their skills with the community at hands-on creative workshops.

Saturday Sessions at the Bas are held on the second Saturday of each month in the centre's workshop rooms until December.

Workshops include twined basketry with Ruby Berry, upcycling books with steampunk with Carmel Cox, collaging with Lee Honey, art techniques with Stuart Whitelaw and Ecodeyeing with Sue Barford.

Saturday Sessions are \$120 to cover costs and are being run as a trial until December. For the full list of workshops, or to book, visit www.thebas.com.au

Dam good news!

We knew the concept held water – it's why Council took a calculated risk of allocating \$3.5 million in 2016 to push ahead with plans for a new dam in the south in the shire. That risk has now paid off for our \$105 million southern water supply storage project. The federal government has allocated \$51.2 million for the project, adding to the \$25.6 million from the NSW Government. Council will budget for the remainder.

That early leap of faith five years ago means we have a massive head-start. The detailed designs and relevant approvals are done. Construction of the new pump station at the Tuross River is underway - it will pump water from the river in times of high flow to the 3,000ML-capacity dam.

Located west of Bodalla, it will complement our 4,900ML Deep Creek Dam south of Batemans Bay, providing bushfire and drought resilience, and more water for peak demand periods and predicted population growth.

The new river pump station will be complete early next year, and we'll soon upgrade the power supply and build the dam access road.

We'll also call for tenders for the dam's construction, with most of the works within Bodalla State Forest. All going well, we hope to start filling the dam with water from the Tuross River in 2024-25.

Long road to recovery

Our rural road network has been set back years following eight natural disasters in 17 months.

Since the bushfires Eurobodalla has faced seven floods, which wreaked havoc across our 1019km of local roads, including 405km of unsealed (gravel) roads.

The major impacts are on our rural community, where people face serious challenges in accessing their properties, getting produce to market and rebuilding following the fires. We're working with residents and transport companies to overcome these challenges.

We've already completed about \$17 million worth of recovery works since January 2020, yet the repeated disasters and additional damage mean there are many challenges yet to be tackled. Government funding provided under the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements is essential, and we've asked for more to cover the landslip work on Araluen Road. www.esc.nsw.gov.au/currentworks

Accounting for the budget

Scott Westbury is a numbers man. His dad was a numbers man, his grandfather was a numbers man. It's just as well – he's our chief financial officer.



Scott started here back in 2019 after 15 years working as a CFO in the US-based multinational companies Cummins Engines and Black and Decker. Tired of midnight conference calls to coordinate with the rest of the world, Scott and his family needed a sea change. It's been a bit of a learning curve going from the cutthroat realm of big businesses with a \$600 million turnover, where a slight change to the bottom line can mean job cuts worldwide.

"The biggest difference is I'm not here to maximise profit, like you are in private industry. Instead it's about delivering the services we're entrusted to do, while still making sure we've got money in the bank for the unexpected," he said.

Our annual operational plans lay out Council's projects and services each year. Scott's role is to make sure we can afford to do those things without needing a special rate increase or cutting services.

It's a bit of a balancing act. Grant funding has gone through the roof in recent years, however the cost of maintaining the resulting infrastructure needs to be funded within existing income.

There's always competing priorities and in a shire as geographically large as ours there's plenty of them, and we can't do it all at once.

"We have to make strategic decisions about what's the best use of funds to benefit the most amount of people in the community and the most critical projects," he said.

"You can't please everybody, but Council's finance team is trying to ensure ratepayers get value for their money, that projects get delivered, and that we can live within our means on the rate base that we currently have."

Photo: Council's Chief Financial Officer Scott Westbury.

Caching the cash

A key focus of our finance team is ensuring we have adequate unrestricted cash.

Unlike private enterprise, councils are highly restricted in how they can use funds.

For example, income from water and sewer charges can only be spent on water and sewer operations, waste charges on waste services, and contributions from developers can only be spent on infrastructure in the area being developed.

Our chief financial officer Scott Westbury says that of the \$140 million or so Council has "in the bank", around \$135 million is restricted.

"We need unrestricted funds in Council's general fund to pay for things like roads, bridges, footpaths, upgrades to recreation grounds, the Bas arts centre – a whole range of things – as well as staff and contractor costs," he said.

"Council also needs a level of cash in reserve to cover unexpected things like COVID-19 closures and bushfires."

We can't just up our charges – rate rises are capped by the NSW Government each year, and we must use best practice pricing for our water, sewerage and waste services. "We always think strategically and sometimes outside the box in terms of what we can do to help our cash position," Scott said. "This can include things such as improving the financial performance of Council's commercial operations, looking for new income generating opportunities, and refinancing loans."

When it comes to accountability, our finances are audited every year by accounting powerhouse Deloitte, who deep dive into every check and balance.

There are also ongoing audits of our internal processes conducted by InConsult, who look at things like our procurement system, whether developer contributions are working right, and whether corporate credit card processes are being followed.

Both audits are reviewed by our executive, councillors and our Audit and Risk Improvement Committee, which includes community members.

Sign of things to come

Work has begun on new entry signs for Eurobodalla's towns and villages, with Mogo first up.



Front and centre will be a laser-cut image of Umbarra – the black duck – a Yuin totem for all Dhurga speaking people – and the traditional Dhurga language welcome 'walawaani njindiwan', translating to 'safe journeys everyone'.

The signs will use local quarried stone, incorporate turquoise to represent beaches

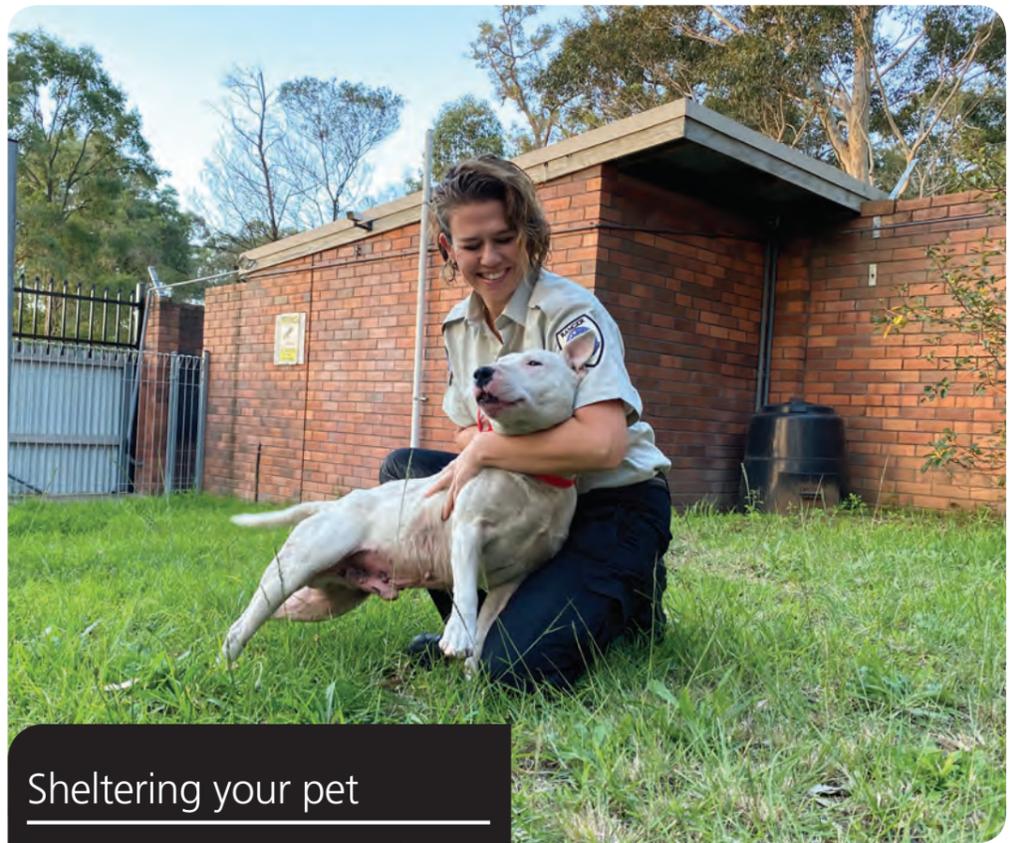
and waterways, include a sweeping curve to represent the coastline, rolling hills and mountains, and feature the orange-brown colour of rusted steel found throughout Eurobodalla.

The designs incorporate community feedback on our tourism wayfinding and signage strategy, and subsequent signage style guide, back in 2019.

Our Aboriginal Advisory Committee, along with Aboriginal community elders, were involved in selecting the Umbarra artwork.

Keep an eye out for the new Mogo village signs, manufactured by a Batemans Bay company.

More town and village signs will be progressively rolled out as funding becomes available.



Sheltering your pet

Impounded animals are having a much more pleasant stay at the Moruya Animal Shelter after we worked with local vets and animal welfare groups to spruce up the facility.

On average about 320 animals – mostly dogs and some cats – enter the shelter each year after they are lost, surrendered or seized. Admission to the shelter can be prevented if animals are properly identified through an ID tag and microchipping.

Among the recent improvements to the shelter is an additional dog exercise area, new beds and bedding, and a designated area for microchipping and welfare checks – where we also treat all animals for fleas and ticks.

A lick of paint and gardening have given the shelter a lift – and more improvements are scheduled later this year.

The shelter's number one priority is the animals' welfare. We try to minimise the stay of all animals – returning them to their owners quickly or rehoming where possible.

We use Facebook to advertise dogs and cats needing new homes and with a lot of help from RSPCA and Animal Welfare League volunteers (thanks guys!) the rehoming program has been hugely successful.

Where an animal is dangerous or unsuitable to rehome – such as a feral cat – euthanasia is the most appropriate option. This accounts for less than five per cent of animals.

For comprehensive information about owning a pet in Eurobodalla visit www.esc.nsw.gov.au/pets

Photo: Ranger Maryka Feiertag with a lost dog in care.

History alive and well



They're not just the final resting place of citizens past.

Wander 'round a historic cemetery and you'll learn Eurobodalla's stories; of Aboriginal leaders pre-contact, of migrants attracted by gold, of Australia's first pandemic, and of the unbelievable rate of child mortality and deaths by drowning.

At least 50 historic cemeteries, burial sites and memorials remain in Eurobodalla – 35 of these are formally listed as significant.

Council took over management of 11 local cemeteries – including four historic cemeteries – in the mid-1970s. Before then churches arranged their own burials, however the records we inherited were incomplete; lost in the passage of time or succumbing to decay or fire.

The surge in genealogy in recent years has highlighted a community desire to restore and conserve our historic cemeteries and in particular, family graves.

Local community groups and historical societies began recording and restoring graves in their respective areas with the support of Council, but in isolation.

To build on this important work already done – and to guide future efforts right across the shire – we last year commissioned a comprehensive study.

Prepared for Council by a heritage specialist, with enthusiastic input from the community, the Historic Cemeteries Conservation Management Study details the significance of historic cemeteries in Eurobodalla and makes recommendations for their conservation and management, whether that be by private citizens, community groups or Council.

Our heritage planner Steve Halicki said the study provided a wealth of information for researchers and genealogists.

"The study details the history of each cemetery and also provides an inventory of all people known to be buried locally, including some of those records thought to be lost," he said.

"Cemeteries are not only significant for descendants looking to piece together their family's history, they tell us powerful stories about past lives, including the challenges faced by our earlier generations.

"They are our shire's history – and that of our nation."

Find the study at www.esc.nsw.gov.au – just search 'cemeteries'.

New social support for bushfire recovery

A new program is linking volunteers with locals who feel they need a little extra support to get back into the community following the fires.

The first of its kind, the Volunteers for Bushfire Recovery Program provides social support and companionship to isolated residents impacted by the fires and helps them reconnect.

Our volunteer development officer Maxine Plant said support of family, friends and neighbours was fundamental for good mental health and connection, however not everyone had that existing support network.

"There are isolated people in our community who live alone, which has been exacerbated by the bushfires, COVID and floods," she said.

"Many are going through major life upheaval and do not feel they're able to socialise as they used to, or to do the things they want to do.

"This program provides a little extra support to those who aren't quite up to doing new things on their own – like trying a new experience – or who just need a friendly face on a regular basis."

We've already had interest from prospective clients – now we need volunteers willing to offer companionship and enhance people's quality of life.

Volunteers must be over 18 and will be encouraged to attend a free mental health first aid training course. Specialist training may also be available.

The Volunteers for Bushfire Recovery Program is managed by Council thanks to funding from the COORDINARE Primary Health Network.

For more information on volunteering visit www.esc.nsw.gov.au and search 'volunteers'.

For bushfire recovery information, including available support, head to www.esc.nsw.gov.au/recovery

Eurobodalla Bushfire Recovery Support Service

Our caring and confidential case management service can help you access personal and practical recovery support. Call or visit our Moruya office Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm at 46 Vulcan Street, Moruya (next to the pharmacy).

T: 4474 7434
E: recovery@esc.nsw.gov.au

3Bs now at Bodalla, Dalmeny

Our 3Bs Playgroups are back in full swing for families with children aged 0-5 to have fun, socialise and learn as they play.

Playgroups are held weekly at Surfside, Sunshine Bay, Moruya and Wallaga Lake, as well as a multicultural playgroup and a Muddy Puddles playgroup.

This year we've also added two new fortnightly playgroups – Dalmeny on Wednesdays, and Bodalla on Tuesdays.

For more information about 3Bs, including the timetable, visit www.esc.nsw.gov.au/children or phone 4474 7333.



Hot tip: Check out the buyback shop

Need a scarecrow, an artwork or tools for the shed? How about a tackle box, snow skis, a fur coat, or a toy monster truck? You'll find them all – and much more – at the Surf Beach tip buyback shop.

Having undergone a revamp following the fires, the buyback shop is looking great. It's a treasure trove of riches – from building materials to board games, crutches to cutlery, saddles to sinks – and everything in between.

Items in the shop are retrieved from the tip's bunker, where all waste is deposited before it is taken by loaders up to landfill. The items are sorted, inspected, cleaned if necessary, and most often sold for a pittance, with the small income used to cover the shop's costs.

It's managed by Roy Hatch (pictured) who, in his past life working at De Bortoli wines in Griffith NSW, spearheaded a major initiative to reduce waste company-wide.

He's not letting his retirement here at the coast go to waste either, still rescuing items from landfill to give them a second life.

Roy has a knack for merchandising, and his attention to detail shows. Everything you see has been recovered from landfill, from the carefully-curated displays of historical items he says are to "jazz the place up a bit", to the scented candle burning on the counter.

Roy says there's a home for just about anything and he's amazed by what people throw away – and what people will buy.

"Everything is valuable," Roy said. "It might not be valuable to me, but it has value to someone. People say to me 'Roy, that won't sell', but you leave it here a month or whatever, and it sells."

“Everybody loves coming here because it's a big treasure hunt.”

Roy said there was usually a steady stream of customers; pensioners having a browse, people on a mission for a DIY project, and parents with kids filling in time.

"Everybody loves coming here because it's a big treasure hunt," he said. "They might have been here yesterday, but today they'll come in and find something new. "If it takes their fancy, they'll buy it for a couple of dollars - and the best part is, it's getting reused, and it doesn't end up in a hole on top of the hill."

The Surf Beach Waste Management Facility buyback shop is open 8am to 12pm, Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays, and 9am to 1pm on Saturdays and Sundays. Buyback shops are also at Moruya and Brou waste facilities and are open during operating hours.

Pilot on the verge

We're piloting a verge garden program to help residents create greener neighbourhoods and improve our streets.

Thanks to funding from the NSW Government, it offers help to residents wanting to establish a verge garden with the design, free plants and planting.

We're often contacted by folks asking what they can plant on their verge, which is technically public land.

Our natural resource officer Courtney Fink-Downes said there were plenty of options – from growing a native garden to



planting shade trees for summer cooling, and more.

"We can do so much with our verges," Courtney said.

"We can grow and share fruit, plant important habitat for native fauna or even add colourful native flowers."

Courtney encouraged residents to talk to their neighbours about the idea and work together for added street appeal.

If selected for the program, we'll ensure their ideas work with our infrastructure, and provide plants, organise a working bee with the street to build it and provide advice on maintenance.

The findings of the pilot will help us better understand what residents want to do with their verge so we can develop shire-wide guidelines.

For more information, or to express your interest, visit www.esc.nsw.gov.au and search 'verge garden pilot program'.

Changes to submitting DAs

From 1 July all development applications across NSW must be submitted via the NSW Government's Planning Portal instead of through local councils.

The NSW Government mandated the change, meaning council planning teams – including ours – are no longer permitted by law to accept development applications, however we will still be required to assess them.

Instead, anyone wanting to submit a DA to Council for assessment will need to head to www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au, create an account and upload their files, which will then be made available to our planning staff to assess. The NSW Government is also charging an additional fee.

The NSW Government says the move is to "drive the digital transformation of all planning services", however for councils like us already accepting digital files, it's an added inconvenience for both our customers and staff.

It's expected to be particularly challenging for those who still submit hardcopy DAs – around a third of our customers.

We're continuing to lobby against the mandated change.

In the meantime, we still provide advice on your development application pre-lodgement – give our development helpdesk a call on 4474 1231.

Bay Pavilions – it's official

Councillors in May officially endorsed "Bay Pavilions" as the overall precinct name for the new arts, aquatic and leisure centre in Batemans Bay.

Within it will sit the Aquatic Pavilion and Arts Pavilion, which incorporate the Yuin theatre, Studios 1 – 4 (including Indigenous numbering), the Clyde gallery and Gurangadj (water slides).

The branding is the culmination of work by brand specialists CITIZEN and subsequent feedback from the community earlier this year.

The finalisation of the name, and accompanying style guide, will allow the successful managing contractor to begin marketing.

Bay Pavilions is scheduled to open in early 2022.

New playgrounds out of the park

Folks are loving the recently-upgraded Jack Buckley Park at Tomakin, which now better caters for all ages and larger groups.

It's worth a look if you're in the area – while you're there why not test your ninja warrior skills on the new obstacle course, built for older kids and adults.

The new playground at South Durras skate park is getting plenty of use – its design was chosen by popular vote.

Our next playground project is at Korners Park in Surfside, which will be delivered in partnership with John Holland as part of the Batemans Bay Bridge project.

Surfside has been without a playground for a while now due to the bridge's construction, so we're excited to get to work bringing one back in play.

After that, our next priority playground is at Malua Bay, and we're seeking a NSW Government grant to help us achieve even better recreation and accessibility outcomes for the whole beach reserve.

What's on

For more information, visit:
www.esc.nsw.gov.au
www.whatson.eurobodalla.com.au

July-September 2021

We're loving all these events! With COVID-19 rules and event requirements subject to change we recommend checking the details prior to attending.

July

26 Jun – 8 Aug Basil Sellers Art Prize Retrospective exhibition, Basil Sellers Exhibition Centre, corner of Vulcan and Campbell Sts, Moruya, Tue-Sun, 10am-4pm. Exhibition showcasing past winners of the Basil Sellers Art Prize. Free, www.thebas.com.au

Thu 1 Jul – 29 Aug Featured artist: Ian (Bill) McKenzie, Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden gift shop, Deep Creek Dam Rd, south of Batemans Bay, 9am-4pm, Wed-Sun. See beautiful watercolours by award-winning artist Bill McKenzie. Free, www.erbg.com.au

Sat 3 July Emergency services fun day, Hanging Rock sportsground, Batemans Bay, 8.30am-3pm. Kids activities, food, raffles, jumping castle, live music, demonstrations. Batemans Bay Business and Tourism Chamber event. Free

Insect hotel workshop

Make an insect hotel that provides shelter for friendly bugs and garden pollinators. For ages 10+. Cost \$5, bookings essential, www.esc.nsw.gov.au

Thu 1 Jul Moruya Library, Vulcan St, 10.30am-12pm - 4474 1333

Thu 1 Jul Narooma Library, Field St, 10.30am-12pm - 4476 1164

Sat 3 Jul Free microchipping day, Corrigans Beach Reserve, Batehaven, 9am-2pm.

Free pet microchipping, advice on pet care, desexing discounts. Free, bookings essential to 0429 488 200. www.esc.nsw.gov.au/events



Mon 5 Jul NAIDOC Week flag raising ceremony, Council Chambers, 89 Vulcan St, Moruya, 10.30am. Celebrating the start of NAIDOC Week. Guest speakers, Dhurga songs, morning tea. Free, www.esc.nsw.gov.au/events

NAIDOC Week poetry and storytelling workshop Learn about Indigenous ways of healing country and modern storytelling through poetry. For ages 8-14. Free, bookings essential, www.esc.nsw.gov.au/events

Tue 6 Jul Narooma Library, Field St, 10am-12pm - 4476 1164

Tue 6 Jul Moruya Library, Vulcan St, 2-4pm - 4474 1333

Wed 7 Jul Batemans Bay Library, Hanging Rock Pl, 10am-12pm - 4472 5850

Snow globe workshop

Have fun creating art to go inside your very own snow globe. Ages 6-12. Cost \$5, bookings essential, www.esc.nsw.gov.au/events

Mon 5 Jul Batemans Bay Library, Hanging Rock Pl, 10.30-11.30am - 4472 5850

Wed 7 Jul Moruya Library, Vulcan St, 10.30-11.30am - 4474 1333

Thu 8 Jul Narooma Library, Field St, 10.30-11.30am - 4476 1164

Wattle Walk children's knitting workshop

Learn how to make hand-knitted wattle branches to display in the River of Art festival. Materials supplied. Free, bookings essential, www.esc.nsw.gov.au/events

Tue 6 Jul Batemans Bay Library, Hanging Rock Pl, 3.30-4.30pm - 4472 5850

Thu 8 Jul Moruya Library, Vulcan St, 3.30-4.30pm - 4474 1333

Fri 9 Jul Narooma Library, Field St, 1.30-2.30pm - 4476 1164

Wed 7 Jul – Wed 28 Jul Winter Lego club, Narooma Library, Field St, 3.30pm.

For ages 6-10 on Wednesdays in July. Build together, weekly challenge, display your creations. Lego supplied. Free, www.esc.nsw.gov.au/events



Mon 12 Jul – Annual hard waste collection begins, shire wide. Free kerbside junk collection for those on Council's domestic waste collection. Limit of two cubic metres per household. Starting at Akolele, Tilba Tilba, Central Tilba, Mystery Bay, Narooma, North Narooma and progressing north, ending in mid-September. Free, www.esc.nsw.gov.au/waste for dates and details.

Mon 12 Jul – Sat 31 Jul Artist exhibition - Cat Wilson, Narooma Library, Field St, library opening hours. See handmade blueprint replicas of traditional Moroccan patterns. Artist floor talk: Fri 23 July. Free, www.esc.nsw.gov.au/events

13 Jul – 31 Aug Wattle Walk knit-in, Batemans Bay Library, Hanging Rock Pl, 3.30-4.30pm. Help knit wattle branches to display in the River of Art festival. Tuesdays in July and August (except Tues 6 Jul). Materials supplied. Free, www.esc.nsw.gov.au/events

Trove workshop

Learn tips and tricks for using Trove, Australia's free online research portal. Free, bookings essential, www.esc.nsw.gov.au/events

Thu 15 Jul Moruya Library, Vulcan St, 10.30am-12pm - 4474 1333

Tue 20 Jul Batemans Bay Library, Hanging Rock Pl, 10.30am-12pm - 4472 5850

Wed 28 Jul Narooma Library, Field St, 3-4.30pm - 4476 1164

Sat 17 Jul AMH Rally of the Bay, forests surrounding Batemans Bay, 8am-5pm.

A round of the NSW Rally Championship, featuring rally cars, drivers and co-drivers from across Australia. <https://nsscc.com.au/rally-of-the-bay/>

Wed 21 Jul Councillor candidate information sessions, Council Chambers, 89 Vulcan St, Moruya, 1.30-3.30pm and 6-8pm.

Potential candidates in this year's local government election can gain a better understanding of what's involved in being a councillor. Free, bookings essential to 4474 1358, www.esc.nsw.gov.au/events

Sat 24 Jul Writing workshop: Self-publishing and freelancing, Narooma Library, Field St, 10-11.30am. Learn how to turn passion into profit with Walkley Award-winning journalist Kathryn McCarthy. Cost \$5, bookings essential, www.esc.nsw.gov.au/events, 4476 1164

Sat 31 Jul Writing workshop: Feature writing, Moruya Library, Vulcan St, 10-11.30am.

Learn how to make your writing stand out with Walkley Award-winning journalist Kathryn McCarthy. Cost \$5, bookings essential, www.esc.nsw.gov.au/events, 4474 1333



Sat 31 Jul goodnessgravel: Mogo, starts from Mogo Oval, 2/14 Queen St, 6.30am-2.30pm.

Gravel cycling event for intermediate and advanced cyclists offering two courses; 75km and 130km. goodnessgravel.com/events/mogo

August

Sun 1 Aug National Tree Day plant swap, Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden, Deep Creek Dam Rd, south of Batemans Bay, 9am-1pm. Bring along weeds from your garden to exchange for native plants. Free, www.esc.nsw.gov.au/events

Storytime

Storytime for kids is free at your local library, 10.30am every Monday at Batemans Bay, Wednesday at Moruya and Thursday at Narooma during the school term.

Tech training for seniors

Free sessions helping older people develop basic technology skills. Book one session or all. Sessions held at Moruya Library, Vulcan St, 10.30am-12.30pm. Free, bookings essential to 4474 1333, www.esc.nsw.gov.au/events

Thu 5 Aug Intro to iPhones and iPads

Thu 12 Aug Intro to the internet

Mon 16 Aug Intro to Android phones and tablets

Mon 23 Aug The next step, Android phones and tablets

Thu 26 Aug Intro to Microsoft Office

Thu 5 Aug – Thu 26 Aug Winter Lego club, Moruya Library, Vulcan St, 3.30-4.30pm.

For ages 6-10 on Thursdays in August. Build together, weekly challenge, display your creations. Lego supplied. Free, www.esc.nsw.gov.au/events

Sat 7 Aug – Sun 8 Aug JetBlack Wild Wombat, Deep Creek Dam Rd, Mogo.

Mountain bike and trail running challenges held in beautiful trails of Mogo. Cross-country endurance, four or six-hour races and 7km trail runs. <https://rockytrailentertainment.com/>

Sat 7 Aug Narooma Forest Rally, forests surrounding Narooma, 9am-6pm.

Fun and laidback event attracting top competitors. whatson.eurobodalla.com.au

Sat 14 Aug Twined basketry workshop, Basil Sellers Exhibition Centre, corner of Vulcan and Campbell Sts, Moruya, 12.30-3.30pm.

Join textile artist Ruby Berry and use wool and waxed threads to construct delicate baskets. Cost \$120, bookings essential, www.esc.nsw.gov.au/events, 4474 1061

Sat 21 – Sun 29 Aug Sculpture for Clyde, heritage shopfront, Clyde St, Batemans Bay and Willinga Park, 134 Forster Dr, Bawley Point. Small sculptures on show in the heritage shop on Clyde St. Outdoor sculptures exhibited at Willinga Park, where a winning sculpture is chosen for permanent display in the Batemans Bay Sculpture Walk. <https://sculptureforclyde.com.au/>

Fri 27 Aug – Sun 29 Aug Capital to Coast Staged Trail Race, from Canberra to Braidwood, then Monga Mountain, Nelligen, Deep Creek Dam, ending at Cookies Beach.

A multi-stage run with a great festival atmosphere, following beautiful trails of forest, mountains and beaches. www.capitaltothecoast.com.au/

September

Sat 4 Sep Local government election, shire-wide. Vote for your local councillors, who work together to provide good governance for the benefit of our community. www.elections.nsw.gov.au

Annual household chemical cleanout

Dispose of unwanted household chemicals, like paints, fuels, oils, cleaners, poisons and more, for free. More info www.esc.nsw.gov.au/waste

Sat 4 Sep Gundry Oval carpark, Campbell St, Moruya, 8am-2.30pm

Sun 5 Sep Narooma Library carpark, Graham St, 8am-2.30pm

Sun 5 Sep Hanging Rock boat ramp, off Beach Road, Batemans Bay, 8am-2.30pm

Sat 11 Sep, Upcycling books with steampunk workshop, Basil Sellers Exhibition Centre, corner of Vulcan and Campbell Sts, Moruya, 12.30-3.30pm.

Join artist Carmel Cox to revamp second-hand books into funky steampunk themes. Cost \$120, bookings essential. www.esc.nsw.gov.au/events, 4474 1061

Fri 17 Sep to Sun 26 Sep Splinters annual woodwork exhibition, Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden Banksia function room, Deep Creek Dam Rd, south of Batemans Bay, 9am-4pm, Wed-Sun. Exhibiting at the Botanic Garden for the first time, Splinters members share their love of timber furniture, including pieces using native timbers. Free, www.erbg.org.au

Council meetings

Council meetings are held from 11am on the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month. Present to Council, or watch a video of the meeting online. Details are on our website.



Fri 17 Sep – Sun 26 Sep River of Art, shire-wide.

Vibrant festival celebrating the region's creative arts scene. Artisan markets, live music, galleries, open studios and more. www.riverofart.com.au

Sun 26 Sep Art on the Path, shared pathway, Coronation Drive, Broulee (opposite the post office), 8am-12pm.

Sustainable markets for local artists and makers to showcase their products. www.esc.nsw.gov.au/events



Markets

Discover delicious fresh produce, hand-made treasures and entertainment at regular markets across Eurobodalla.

SAGE Farmers' Markets, Moruya Tuesdays, 3-5.30pm Riverside Park, Shore St. Award-winning market showcasing local produce. www.sagefarmersmarket.org.au

Moruya Country Markets

Saturdays, 7.30am-12.30pm Riverside Park, Shore St. Over 120 stalls, live music, arts and crafts, food, fresh produce. www.moruyacountrymarkets.com.au

Tilba Market

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

Batemans Bay Marine Rescue Markets First Sunday of the month, 9am-1pm

Corrigans Beach Reserve, Batehaven. Fresh food, coffee, craft, fruit and veg, clothing, timber products.

Dalmeny Community Markets

Second Sunday of the month, 8.30am-12pm Dalmeny Community Hall, Mort Ave. Handmade focus - clothing and jewellery, local produce, plants, art, cards, food, coffee.

Batemans Bay Rotary Markets

Third Sunday of the month, 9am-1pm Corrigans Beach Reserve, Batehaven. Produce, pet products, takeaway food, gifts, second-hand items.

Narooma Rotary Markets

Fourth Sunday of the month, 8.30am-1pm NATA Oval, Bluewater Dr. Food, clothing, arts and crafts, local produce, handmade gifts.

Edward Road Market Place

Thursdays, Saturdays, Sundays 2 Edward Rd, Batehaven, 7.30am-2pm Plants, art, music, produce, craft, vintage treasures.