



The Old Bega Hospital Regional Community Cultural Centre Autumn 2020 News

Celebrating our community and those who call the OBH home

Activating our studios, workshops and meeting places

Working together we meet, do, build, craft and make things happen

A message from all us at The Old Bega Hospital concerning the devastating fires which have impacted on all our lives in 2020

We are all shocked by the unprecedented fires that have decimated our region. Many of our friends from across the region from the south at Mallacoota, Kiah and Eden, inland to Wyndham, Rocky Hall, Bemboka, then to our north at Quaama, Cobargo, Mogo, and Batemans Bay have been personally impacted having lost houses, workshops, studios, facilities and their treasured making spaces and places.

No one who lives in the region has not been effected by the destruction wrought by the fires on our villages, with the loss of property, historical sites, vegetation, animals, national parks, forests, and our people as well as their businesses. We will recover; it will take time. The economic, emotional and social impact will be ongoing.

We salute our communities who have come together and supported each other and the hundreds of volunteers across all groups and agencies. We especially express our unconditional gratitude to our brave volunteer fire fighters who responded without hesitation to these crises. To the leadership of the Bega Valley Shire Council, especially our Mayor Kristy McBain and our state member, Andrew Constance and our Federal member, Mike Kelly. All have actively engaged on the ground with our communities. Great to see the armed forces and the reserves called out to help with the recovery. The outpouring of support from everywhere is overwhelming.

We are all in recovery mode at the moment. Visitors are being encouraged to return to the region to spend a dollar or two - we simply ask everyone to

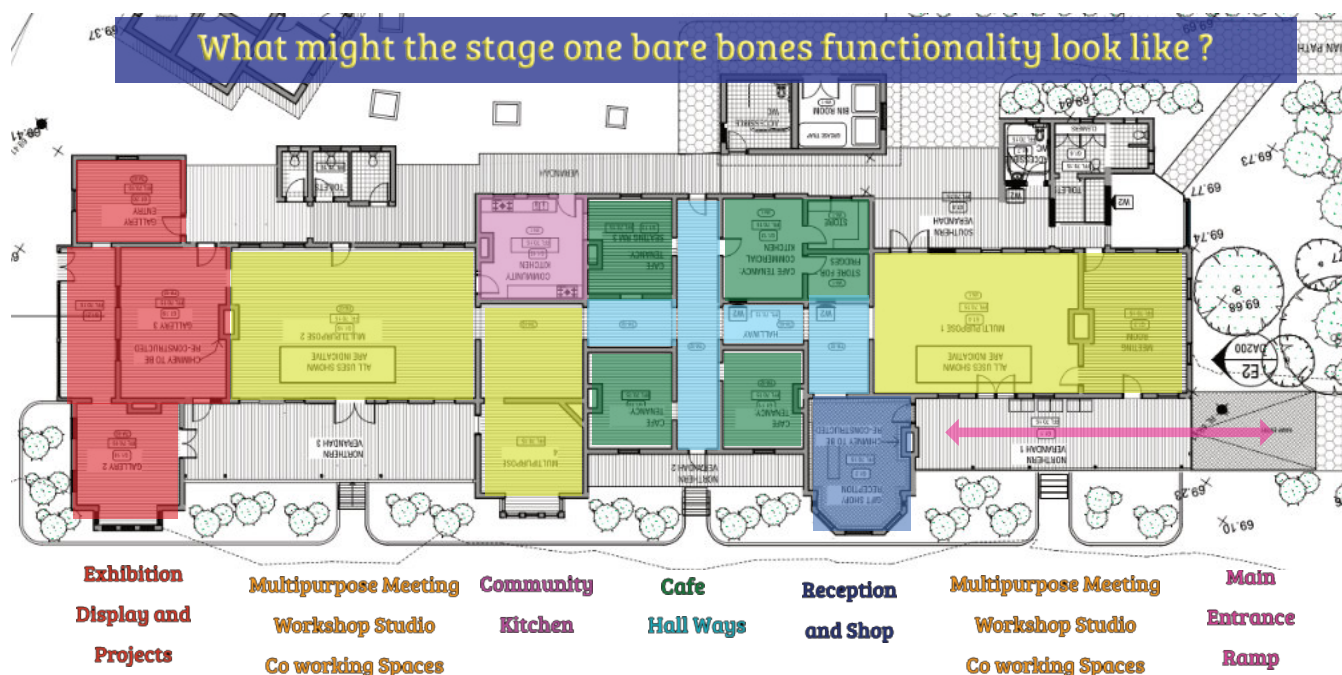
Tread lightly on our landscape because every aspect has been Traumatized

Stage One of the restoration about to begin

In 2020 **Stage One** of the long awaited OBH restoration of the main building gets underway with the finalisation of the development application and the signing of the Deed of Funding with the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.



The Old Bega Hospital is a Heritage Landmark of the South Coast



What does a the 'bare bones' restoration of the Old Bega Hospital main building mean?

The \$3.4m from the state government will give us a roof, a ceiling, a floor, doors and windows that open and shut, and just enough toilets, electricity, water and security to meet all the rules to allow us to legally occupy and use the whole building. It won't include anything fancy and it won't make any additions to what is already there. Stage One will provide a bare building that is a blank canvas for us to work on.

A Report from Old Bega Hospital Reserve Land Manager Board

Dear Friends

We are within days of finalising the Deed of Funding document which will create the document for signature and start the money rolling. The process has provided opportunity for robust discussion and thinking and we thank the staff at the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment for their encouragement and help during this period. I thank all the Board members who have given this their dedicated attention during the terrible summer we are experiencing. Half our members have been either evacuated or been at high alert for their properties but still found the time to contribute to a community project close to our hearts. As well, the group has met informally and formally to amend our Development Application to Bega Valley Shire Council. For technical reasons, it became clear that we should just proceed with the Stage One project. This is the "bare bones" stage as described in the summer newsletter but which will allow the centre to become functional (though not with the heritage features and finishing touches that Stage Two will bring - more fundraising and applications coming up). And thank you to the new Board members who have provided their thoughts and practical experience to the mix. These amendments have been passed back to our architectural firm and incorporated into drawings and text which has now been forwarded to the Council. We thank the officers there, too, for their professional approach.

We have also dealt with the insurance issue relating to the loss of one of the chimneys as mentioned in the summer newsletter. This will be incorporated into the roof reconstruction. We hope for no more severe wind gusts before the roof gets started.

I would like to thank the Friends' raffle ticket sellers who have braved smoke, heat and gusty windy weather to sell tickets. We missed a few days due to the weather but still managed a creditable profit. Congratulations to our local winner. Thank you to all the ticket buyers who stopped by the table to purchase tickets, enquire about progress and share thoughts and experiences of OBH. Claire Lupton will be incorporating those new stories into the history she is compiling.

Where are we now? Thinking about and compiling details to complete a number of administrative tasks which need to be organised prior to the DA being approved. Will the community see anything of progress this year? We certainly hope so. And we Board members will be just as keen to see constructive changes and the fruits of our thinking and robust discussions.

Pat Jones

Chair - Old Bega Hospital Reserve Land Manager board

A Report from the Friends of the Old Bega Hospital

The Friends of the Old Bega Hospital \$3,000 Flight Centre grand travel raffle was drawn 11 February. The lucky **winner was Nicola Higgins from Bega**. Congratulations to Nicola and a huge thank you to everyone who bought tickets, sold tickets and helped with the process. The raffle made over \$2,300 for the Friends, money which will go towards rebuilding and furnishing the main building. Work has started on the next Friends event, the Friends Trivia Night, which will be held in mid winter. Contact us if you are a trivia nut and would like to help with the organising.

The Friends had started to get organised to plant three rows of trees, shrubs and grasses around the perimeter of the site, to help shield the heritage precinct from our gradually encroaching industrial neighbours. We've decided to keep money in the bank for the time being though, in case it is needed for the rebuilding work: on current estimates the Reserve Land Manager is a bit short of cash to complete the rebuilding, but we won't know exactly where things stand financially until detailed design is completed and quotes have come in from builders.

In the meantime, we want to look at landscaping more broadly, including how to manage the grounds through the rebuilding process. We know we don't want trucks everywhere. We will need to work with the project manager and the builders to ensure that important things are not damaged, and if possible to get plantings started so they are growing well by the time work is finished. We plan to have a Sunday planning afternoon. Let us know if you are interested. This all seemed a bit unlikely in January when the grounds were baked hard in the drought: now with some rain it seems possible again.

Richard Bombford

Chair -Friends of the Old Bega Hospital



The Valley Potters are very excited for 2020!

This month will see the installation of our brand new kiln giving the Potters 3 functioning electric kilns. Thank you to The Bega Valley Arts And Crafts society for kindly lending



The Potters the required balance and also to The Bendigo Bank grant for helping with transportation costs. We are also planning a number of workshops and classes in the next 6 months including Beginners Class, Hand Building and also Throwing on the Potters Wheel. Early stage planning has begun for our major fundraiser and popular community event "Clay Soirée 2020" scheduled for early June.

New memberships always welcome. [Follow our Bega Valley Potters Facebook Page](#) for more information.

BECOME INVOLVED WITH

The Old Bega Hospital Landscaping Community Consultative Committee will be tasked to develop plans for landscaping the Bega Regional Community Cultural Centre precinct. The OBHLCCC will develop a landscaping plan for the entire OBH site and advise the OBH Land Managers. The committee needs to embrace a vision for the site taking into account existing plans, reports, infrastructure and studies while incorporating the heritage values and the potential for new buildings including studios on the site. Interested email gardens@obh.org.au

Bega Access Radio (93.7 Edge FM) is your local Community owned and operated radio station, transmitting to the Bega Valley and beyond. For the last 26 years we have broadcast from studios in the Old Bega Hospital at South Bega. We broadcast 24 hours a day, seven days a week. [For a full program guide check out our web site at edgefm.org.au](http://edgefm.org.au)

If you have ever had the urge to present your own radio program, Edge FM has several available time slots. Training is provided free of charge, generally on Saturday afternoons.

For more information write to P.O. Box 771, Bega, email to station@edgefm.org.au or call 6492 4202.

Bega Valley BeeKeepers Inc

'Beginning in Bees' two separate one-day workshops for anyone interested in beekeeping as a hobby. The workshops will provide participants with sufficient information to get started in bees.

Led by Graham Jones, Apiary Manager with the BVB. All workshops are held from 9 am to 2 pm at the OBH, Corkhill Place, Bega, NSW. If you know anyone who is interested in bees, **this is a great introductory course**.

Numbers are limited to 12 persons per workshop, so get your registration in early as places go quickly.

Enrolment, further information and payment can be made <https://buytickets.at/begavalleybeekeepers>.

Further information about the workshop or for alternative enrolment options contact Lyall Zweck:

begavalley.treasurer@beekeepers.asn.au or 0418 816 904

Bega Valley Textiles Members of our amazing, cooperative and understanding group have had to call on all of their stamina and resourcefulness to welcome in 2020. We are aware, with a quiet sadness, frustration and helplessness, that lives have changed in our Valley. None of us feel quite as safe as we used to because the worst fires in living memory have ravaged, and are still threatening, our natural and settled environment.

The meetings of the Bega Valley Weavers and Textile Group are open to all, and members are able to provide tuition, equipment and fibre to anyone who is in need of company or is looking to find a peacefulness through the more gentle activities covered by the word 'handcraft.'

Our first meeting for 2020 was held at Delma's place, near Cobargo. The drive along the highway was sobering- such destruction as far as the eye could see. About 12 of us met. We swapped a few ideas but mainly talked and ate. All local shows, which we normally support in February, have been cancelled-so no displays, sales or demonstrations. But we do have an August booking for an exhibition at the Lazy Lizard, in Cobargo. So plenty of time to prepare for that. The Bega Valley Council has informed the group that the 'Never Too Old to Make It Exhibition' has been deferred until some time in May. Other call outs for our skills may come once our extended community has had a chance to catch its collective breath.

Meet alternate Fridays and Saturdays: Saturday March 7, then fortnightly; Friday, March 13 then fortnightly, in an outbuilding of Bega Community Cultural Centre, affectionately known as the heritage Old Bega Hospital. The group does not break for Easter.

Anyone with the slightest interest in all things fibre and textile are welcome to come to our meetings. We do work, but we also consider chatting and eating a high priority.

Check out our Facebook page [Bega Valley Textiles](#)

email: Chris Rogers - -rogers@netspeed.com.au or

Mog Bremner- mog@mogajon.com.au

The Bega Men's Shed has continued with the additions of the shed and this is almost finished. All the work on the additions have been executed by the shed members and we are proud of our efforts.

We have assisted several community associations with repairs and manufacture of new equipment. If you have a project you are considering, please contact us for assistance and a quote for your job.

We are intending to hold a Garage Sale in late April, if you have any items for sale or are interested in joining us then just contact us or come up to the shed during the opening hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 am to 12: pm. If you just want to see how and what we do come along and call in.

Did you know you can visit the grounds of the OBH and explore the outside of the ruins of the fire ravaged main building and see the heritage listed Nurses Quarters, home to the Studios of 93.7 Edge FM, The Old Morgue, home to the Valley Potters and The Old Operating Theatre, home to Bega Valley Textiles as well as the new Mens Shed ?

REVIEW US ON



tripadvisor

The grounds are well maintained and it is a dog on a leash friendly area. Autumn and Winter in 2020 should be a great time to visit the ruins before the restoration gets underway later in the year. Become a part of history , take a selfie in front of the ruins before the restoration begins.

Post it on Tripadvisor.

**Show your support for the OBH
become a Friend .**

**Follow us on Facebook - Friends of the old Bega Hospital
Check out our web page
just scan the QR code**



Thanks to Andrew Constance, our local member, and his Bega Electoral Office Staff for their ongoing support



UNIVERSITY
OF WOLLONGONG
AUSTRALIA

Bega

We thank the Bega Campus of the
University of Wollongong for their
ongoing support for the OBH

The deadline for Winter edition of the Newsletter is
Monday 18 May 2020

Articles of 250 words are welcome. We are open to
other ideas and suggestions. Any questions or for
further information Email: newsletter@obh.org.au

The Old Bega Hospital Regional Community Cultural Centre Autumn 2020
<http://obh.org.au>