

THE TRIANGLE

COMMUNITY NEWS

Est. Sept. 2002

QUAAMA COBARGO BERMAGUI TILBA & LOCALITIES

Circulation 1800 plus online visits

ISSN 2652-9084 Issue No 259 March 2026

Bega's March for Native Forests



March for Native Forests 2025, peacefully claiming Carp Street!

On Sunday 22 March 2026, Bega will once again join the nationwide movement to protect native forests and the precious biodiversity they are home to. We are calling for an immediate end to industrial logging in all public forests, in favour of a new era of restoration and regeneration, accountability and respect for living systems.

Shockingly, over 96% of native forests logged in south-east NSW are wood-chipped and sent overseas to make a range of paper products. Native forest logging is not only environmentally destructive but also runs at a massive economic loss. Over the past four years, the Forestry Corporation of NSW has cost taxpayers \$85 million, whilst decimating the integrity of our forests and pushing vulnerable species like the greater glider to the brink of extinction.

This does not have to continue until there's nothing left. Take action with us!

When: Sunday 22 March at 10.30 am to noon.

Where: Djiringanj Country, meet at Littleton Gardens, Bega.

What: An engaging line-up with prominent local speakers, music, costume and dance, followed by a fun, empowering march on the main streets of Bega.

Who: Everyone! This is a positive, family-friendly event that welcomes all ages and abilities.

Contact: tamlyn@bobbrown.org.au for more info and/or to volunteer!

Hoping for a beautiful autumnal day on which to see as many of you as possible!

*Tamlyn Magee
Campaign Organiser*



The colourful gathering in Littleton Gardens, 2025 Photos: David Rogers

Are you new to the area, or have you lived here for years and proudly call yourself a local? Either way, you're part of a welcoming community with countless opportunities to become involved. From sports clubs and community groups to artistic and musical pursuits, there is something here for everyone. If creativity is your passion, you'll find exhibitions, choirs, live music, open mic nights and concerts happening throughout the year.

This month, we're delighted to share a diverse range of articles that highlight the many ways you can connect with our community.

So, what's on in March?

First, Sculpture Bermagui celebrates its twentieth year on 7–15 March. This much-loved, entirely community-driven

event showcases inspiring artworks overlooking stunning Horseshoe Bay. There are also works at the Bermagui Surf Club and Shop7 ArtSpace at the Marina. Thanks to a dedicated team of volunteers, it runs smoothly and is free to the public. This year, you can also enjoy a guided walking tour of existing sculptures around town – well worth doing!

March is also busy with music at Four Winds. Catch Bleak Squad on their national tour, experience the elegance of Gryphon Baryton Trio as they transport you back to the time of Haydn, or get ready to dance with Queen Porter Stomp, whose lively mix of ukulele, vocals, banjo, horns and drums guarantees to get you up dancing.

For music lovers – especially Bach lovers – there is Bach's Birthday, celebrated

each year at the Cobargo School of Arts. This year's event takes place on Sunday 22 March. Performers can play any combination of instruments, in any style, as long as the music is Bach. It's always a wonderful morning that showcases the remarkable talent and versatility within our Triangle community.

Finally, we'd love to hear from you. Send us your stories, letters, and feedback – thumbs up or down – at contributions@thetriangle.org.au.

If you're a local provider, please consider advertising with us and if you're a reader, remember to check the Service Directory when you need a trusted tradesperson. When you pick up your copy, consider making a small donation, whether in coins or electronically.

This is your newspaper. Your voice.

Letters

To the Editors,

The Cobargo and District Energy Transition group (CaDET) would like everyone in our community to know that the DA that EDPR has submitted to the Shire Council for a solar farm south of Cobargo does not have our support.

We have been working very hard since the 2019–2020 bushfires to improve Cobargo's electricity resilience through the development of stand-alone rooftop solar plus battery systems at the RFS, RSL, School of Arts and Co-op that can keep the power on when the grid goes down.

We also organised community consultations as part of a feasibility study for a microgrid that can maintain

electricity supply for the entire Cobargo township during grid outages such as occurred during the Black Summer fires. The feasibility study was begun in 2021 by the Canberra-based consultancy, ITP Renewable, and later included their development arm, ITP Development.

As a result of community consultations undertaken in 2022–23, we were made aware of strong objections to the proposed site. In the interest of community harmony, we made a clear recommendation to the developer that the project should not proceed on that site and we worked with them to identify alternative sites, but they chose to ignore our advice on both sites and the volume of community push-back.

In 2024, ITP Development was bought out by the large multinational developer, EDPR. The DA that EDPR has lodged does not have the capability to keep the power on in Cobargo during grid outages, which is the whole point of siting a solar farm close to the township. They did not listen to us and this is part of a long and disappointing history of big developers ignoring the visions and goals of small communities.

You can send feedback directly to EDPR at 1300 551 715. Or make your views known via the Bega Council's DA Tracker portal (DA 10.2026.20.1).

*Cobargo and District
Energy Transition Group*

Disclaimer

The opinions expressed by contributors to the newspaper are their own, to a greater or lesser degree, and do not necessarily reflect those of the editorial team.

Whilst striving to accurately report the news and views of the readers, this newspaper accepts no responsibility or liability for statements made or opinions expressed.

All letters to the editor must be signed and include the writer's full name and address if they are to be considered for publication.

Thank you

Sally, Stuart and Hamish Cooper would like to give their heartfelt thanks to the residents of Mystery Bay who gave up their time to help search for their dearest son and brother, Fergus. We would also like to thank the locals we met when we were staying in the area for their warmth and compassion, especially Sergeant Mike Kingma.

Fergus was a young man enjoying the outdoor lifestyle which your country offers and tragically his plans were cut short. He was funny, thoughtful, caring and hardworking, and his passing has devastated his many friends and family back home in the UK.

Sally Cooper



Fergus Cooper



Thumbs UP

Thumbs up for the splendid volunteers that make *The Triangle* such a great read (and listen) every month. We would be less without you.

Thumbs up to the Tool Library's Graham Parr for his recent excellent sharpening tools workshop in Cobargo. Graham's style of presentation and extensive knowledge was greatly appreciated by the attendees. The quality of this workshop reinforces the practical value of expert volunteers. Well done, Graham and well done, the Tool Library!

Thumbs Up to the Cobargo community of volunteers! Fabulous show this year, Folk Festival, too, and all the unseen heroes who quietly go about making Cobargo such a wonderful place to live. It's not always appreciated how much work is done, so take a pat on the back, all of you who go the extra yard (metre?)!

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Each edition of *The Triangle* costs **\$3.00** to produce. Please donate what you can.

Guidelines for contributors

Thanks for your local stories and photos! We love them and they make *The Triangle* our very own. Just a few tips for submitting stories and photos...

1. Stories should be 300 words or less except by prior arrangement.
2. Images and graphics should be sent as attachments – not embedded into your story. Please send the original digital photo or image, uncompressed, so we have a large file to work with. Generally above 1 mb is large enough. Accepted formats include jpg, jpeg, png and pdf. Please include a caption for your photo at the bottom of the article it accompanies. Contact us for assistance.
3. Send all articles as WORD or other TEXT documents.
4. Please do not send posters or flyers! Instead, write a few paragraphs about your event and include the date, time and venue in that. And attach a photo if you have one.
5. Think about a headline for your story. Please don't leave it to us!
6. Deadline is midday on the 22nd of the month. Please email contributions@thetriangle.org.au and cclsang333@gmail.com with any questions.

Where you can find us –

Distributed by Australia Post and available from:

Bega: Candelo Books, Edge FM at Old Bega Hospital

Bermagui: Lake Road Pantry, PO, Shell Bermagui, Bermagui Country Club, Bluewave Seafood, Library, Visitors Centre, Gulaga Wholefoods, Marine Rescue

Central Tilba: PO, ABC Cheese Factory, Sweet Spot, Tilba Teapot

Cobargo: PO, United Petrol, The Bowerbird Op Shop, Well Thumbed Books, Information Centre, The Junction Café

Narooma: BP Station, Narooma Library, Casey's Café

Quaama: The Quaama Store

Wallaga Lake: Merrimans Land Council

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Advertising: 5pm, 19th of each month

Articles: 12pm, 22nd of each month

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The Triangle is a community newspaper. It aims to provide information and news to the people in the Triangle area – the area bounded by three mountains (Gulaga, Mumbulla and Wandella). The committee comprises volunteers who donate their time and expertise for the benefit of our readers. The Triangle is financially self-sufficient through donations and advertising income. It is published every month except January and has a circulation of 1800 in print (2400 in holiday months) plus around 500 unique online visits each month.

Why Advance Care Directives are important

Advance Care Planning Week is 16 to 22 March, so I'm revisiting why an Advance Care Directive (ACD) is so important.

Imagine being in a hospital bed receiving medical interventions and not being able to communicate what you do and don't want, and your next-of-kin not knowing what decisions to make.

Thankfully, an Advance Care Directive is a legal document that guides clinicians, family members and advocates on your health choices at the end of your life. It is only used when you are physically unable to express your medical preferences yourself, such as in the case of stroke, dementia, coma or an illness that limits speech.

The truth is that some medical interventions such as resuscitation, ventilation, artificial nutrition and opioid sedation may erode your quality of life and not be in line with your values, so thinking that through at any age is important. Taking the step to have your choices captured and talking it over with your GP and circle of carers is vital.

The best way to get the most up-to-date information on how to create an Advance Care Directive is to go to the website of Advance Care Australia and read everything, then click on your state or territory and download a booklet to fill in or call the Advance Care Planning Support Service on 1300 208 582.

I got my ACD witnessed by my GP verifying that I had the

capacity to understand the consequences of the choices I made and that I had made them freely, and they uploaded a copy into their records. I took the original and made certified copies to send around to my advocates, and I keep a copy on hand at home.

I keep a card in my wallet that details my emergency contacts, advocate/s and the GP who signed my ACD and holds a copy of it. Now I can rest easy knowing that's covered!

Shanna Provost

www.rest-easy.com.au

Meriden My Aged Care

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Join your fire brigade!

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- **Bermagui** – 18 Bunga Street – Monday 5.00 – 6.30 pm fortnightly
- **Cobargo** – Wandella Road – Thursdays 7.00 - 9.00 pm fortnightly.
- **Quaama** – Gordon St – 2nd & 4th Thursdays, 5.00 - 7.00 pm.
- **Tilba** – Latimers Lane, Central Tilba – Monday 7.00 – 9.00 pm.

Get in touch or find us on Facebook

- **Bermi** – bermaguirfb@gmail.com 0474 201 859
- **Cobargo** – rbcobargo@gmail.com 0412 919 708
- **Quaama** – quaama@farsouthcoastteam.org.au 0400 738 978
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Song for Bob

Song for Bob on 10 January 2026 was a powerful day of music, connection and heartfelt community spirit at the Murrah Hall, drawing almost 700 attendees from across the region. Featuring 15 musical acts performing from the afternoon until late into the night, the event blended live music, great food and meaningful conversation in a truly uplifting atmosphere.

The event was honoured by the attendance of local Member for Bega, Dr Michael Holland, who delivered a heartfelt speech in support of the initiative. Following the event, Dr Holland also gave a statement in Parliament recognising Song for Bob and its contribution to strengthening mental health awareness and connection in regional communities.

Created in memory of Bob Harris, Song for Bob has a clear purpose: to reduce isolation and help prevent suicide by encouraging genuine conversation and community care. The initiative challenges the automatic 'Yeah, good mate' response when asked 'How's it going?', and instead creates space for honesty – even when the answer is, 'Not so good'.

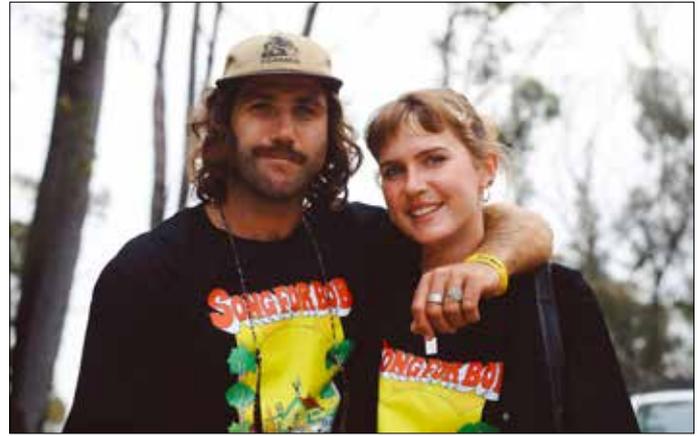
Organisers Jay Harris and Lillian McVeity also attended the Suicide Prevention Australia LiFE Awards in Sydney on 18 February, where Song for Bob was a nominee. While Song for Bob did not take home an award, national recognition was a great honour and reflects the positive impact this grassroots initiative is making.

Funds raised support families in crisis, improvements to the Murrah Hall, donations to R U OK? and future events.

The community is warmly invited to come along to the next Song for Bob event, to be held in January next year. Support the initiative by attending, volunteering, sharing the message or contributing ideas. Together, we can reduce isolation, deepen connection and create a culture where honesty is met with care.

For more information, email: songforbobevent@gmail.com.

Lillian McVeity



Event organisers Jay Harris and Lillian McVeity
Photo: Dan at Glowed Up Portraits



Local band Petrol Bomb playing on the main stage of Song for Bob
Photo: Cohen Maberly

Have your say

The Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District, the Southern NSW Local Health District and COORDINARE are working together to develop a new Regional Mental Health, Suicide Prevention, and Alcohol and Other Drugs Plan for South Eastern NSW. The plan will guide how services are planned, designed and delivered across the region.

Your feedback will help ensure the plan reflects what matters most to our communities.

There is an online survey that takes around 10 to 15 minutes to complete. The survey closes on 15 March. Go to the survey link at www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZGJZ9HF.

The in-person workshop closest to the Triangle area will be in Batemans Bay and is available to everyone – Wednesday, 4 March, 1.00 pm to 3.00 pm, at the Bay Pavilions.

There will also be an online workshop on Mon 9 March, from 10 am to noon, using Microsoft Teams.

If you are interested, you need to register to attend.

Go to www.surveymonkey.com/r/GRC3M56 to register for workshops.

*Coordinare South Eastern NSW
Primary Health Network*



South Coast community transport services

Coast and Country Community Services is delighted to invite everyone to our new Bega premises at 83 Bega Street on Friday 13 March from 11.00 am to 12.30 pm for an open day and morning tea celebration. Come and meet the team.

Coast and Country Community Services is the Community Transport provider in the Bega Valley Shire – we cover the whole of the Bega Valley and travel further afield to Moruya, Batemans Bay and Canberra.

The original transport service consisted of two offices – one in Merimbula, the other in Bermagui. It started in 1988 as an entirely volunteer organisation. The service grew over the years with offices in Bega, Merimbula and Bermagui and some paid staff. The Merimbula and

Bermagui sites closed in 1992 and a central office in Bega continued. Coast and Country Community Services took over in May 2019. The Bega fleet has five cars, one wheelchair-accessible car or van and one ten-seater bus. We are now part of a much larger team with offices in Bega, Kiama, Shoalhaven/Illawarra, Weddin and Young/Boorowa.

There is a misconception that only elderly people can use our service and only for medical appointments. This is not the case – anyone can use our service, and it can be for social, shopping and, of course, medical purposes. The cost varies with your circumstances and whether the government subsidises part or all of the fare. We live in an area where transport options are limited so we form a crucial



One of the Coast to Country vehicles outside the new premises.

link to services for many people who are unable to drive for whatever reason. Call us to register.

Volunteer drivers are still vital to the service, and we are always delighted when someone wants to join our team. In October 2024, CCCS Bega won the South Coast Volunteer Team in the NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards, and it was a nominee in 2025.

Annie Chandler

Narooma Annual Seniors Tennis Tournament

The Narooma Tennis Club and major sponsor, Club Narooma, are pleased to host the 2026 Narooma Seniors Round Robin Tennis Tournament. It will be held from the afternoon of Friday 6 March to Sunday 8 March 2026, coinciding with the Canberra Day long weekend.

Entrants come from local clubs, as well as clubs up and down the coast, the ACT and, in 2025, we had a group from Victoria come up to participate. In the parlance of Tennis Australia, 'Seniors' are players over 30 years old.

There will be a range of events to enter over the course of the weekend, including singles, doubles, mixed age doubles and combined age doubles.

Entries are now open, so get your skates on! See the Narooma Tennis Club's webpage for entry forms and factsheet or email karenmuller289@gmail.com.

Even if you are not tempted to enter, come along over the weekend and cheer for the 'Seniors' in on-court action!

Delma Thompson



Family Nature Play

It's been over a year of the ABA Family Nature Plays around the Triangle! Thanks to the more than forty families who joined in the fun last year. I hope to see you this year on the first Wednesday of every month. At 10.00 am on 4 March, we will be at the Bruce Steer netted swimming pool in Bermagui. Fun for babies, kids under six and young home schoolers. All carers are welcome. Contact Valerie for more information at 0413 090 773.



Nature play in Gulaga Creek, Tilba



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Fungi Festival returns this winter

Fungi Festival, now in its fourth winter, returns from 12 June to 12 July 2026, bringing a month of curiosity, creativity and great food to our region – with many events taking place right here in the Triangle.

Throughout the Festival, locals and visitors can enjoy a diverse program celebrating fungi through food, science, art and outdoor exploration. From forest walks and workshops to lunches, dinners and exhibitions, there will be something for every age and interest.

Food lovers are in for a treat, with fungi-inspired lunches and dinners planned at local favourites including Boneless Café in Bermagui, the new Cobargo Bank café, the Dromedary Hotel in Central Tilba and Mimosa Wines. Chefs will showcase

mushrooms and truffles in creative winter menus, alongside hands-on cooking sessions where participants can learn how to prepare fungi at home – from simple meals to gourmet dishes.

Gulaga Gold truffle hunts and a truffle-growing workshop in nearby Dignams Creek will give locals a rare chance to experience truffle farming firsthand and learn how these prized fungi are cultivated.

For those who love the outdoors, guided fungi forays in nearby bushland will offer the chance to explore local forests with experts and learn to identify different species. Local fungi enthusiast, Caitlin Brown, will team up with visiting fungi identification specialist, Sofia Zvolanek, for talks and walks in Bermagui. These

popular outings provide a new way of seeing our familiar landscapes.

Arts and culture will also feature strongly, with photography workshops, exhibitions and film events across the region. Tika Robinson will return with fungi sculpture at Shop7 ArtSpace in Bermagui, alongside scientific fungi illustrations by Anna Voytsekhovich. The popular fungi photography competition continues, encouraging locals to capture the remarkable shapes and colours emerging after recent rain.

Science and learning remain at the heart of the Festival, with talks on growing mushrooms at home, medicinal fungi and the vital role fungi play in healthy ecosystems. Visiting international scientists will share their knowledge, and locals can take part in citizen science through the Great Aussie Fungi Hunt in July.

Fungi Festival is also seeking local volunteers, especially those with skills in social media, marketing or web support. Email future@fungifestival.com.au to register your interest.

Annette Kennewell



Tim Grimsey is returning from Tasmania to facilitate a fungi photography workshop at Mystery Bay during Fungi Festival.



Mimosa Wines will be hosting another delicious fungi lunch inspired by local Gulaga Gold truffles from Dignams Creek.



Fungi art including Tika Robinson's creative mushroom sculpture will be on display at Shop7 ArtSpace in Bermagui.

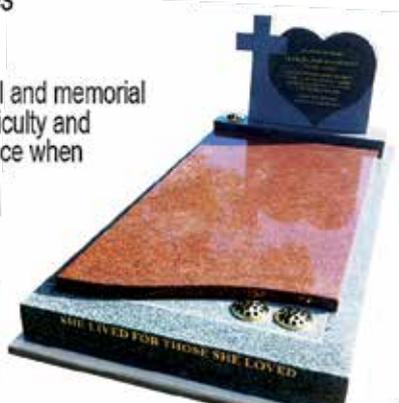
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It's hard to imagine how the little town of Cobargo, with a population of 776, could host its local show over three days and have over 6,200 people come through the gates. The committee led by the president Daniel Allen has worked for months preparing to host a fantastic event. During the show, wherever you looked, there was something brilliant to see. Fabulous showjumping, hack events, beef cattle and dairy cattle, and the pavilion rounded up the more traditional events with great community support for them all. The Campdraft was extremely entertaining with Claire Mathie the ultimate winner. There were lawnmower races and the motorbike obstacle course and the wife carrying competition kept everybody glued to their seats in excitement. The Hawkesbury working kelpies were fascinating to watch but also the commentary was so informative giving an incredible understanding of what makes a working dog tick.

A new event called a quickshear was so fun to watch as the competitors were challenged to shear a sheep fast but well, against the clock. The chainsaw events drew a large crowd along with the axeman's event with a special display from Wade Mathie. He brought his two



Yoked bullocks Ranger and Rusty ready to snig a log Photo: Cliff Shipton Photography

bullocks Ranger and Rusty along to snig a log to show how it used to be done in yesteryears. Ron McKinnon, a well renowned bullocky, also gave an informed overview of how the bullocks work and the skill needed to train them. A competition was also held to guess the weight of the combined bullocks, and they came in at 1,644 kgs – the winner was Amber Bray.

The show was opened by John Bennett, President of The Sydney Royal Show, and a committed member of the show movement. John made note that the PA system at the show is the best quality he has ever experienced. A presentation was made at the official opening to Dave Williams for 20 years' service as a committee member in several roles and also a certificate of appreciation to

outgoing secretary Naomi Rolfe. Both Dave and Naomi have been incredible workers. Mackenzie Dunn was Cobargo Show's Young Woman and this year we had three junior ambassadors – Errin Farron, Jemima Ball and Gypsy Rigatos. Melanie Horsnell sang a beautiful version of Advance Australia Fair that added to the opening address. After the firewood and posts were auctioned, the brilliant rodeo was enjoyed and the show finale was the car soccer. Another magnificent show.

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Mackenzie Dunn, an impressive Cobargo Show Young Woman for 2026



First Prize garlics



John Bennett, President of the RAS, was impressed with the PA system of the show – the best he has ever experienced.



An entrant in the Steer Ride

Cobargo SHOW

13 - 14 - 15 FEBRUARY 2026

Photo credits: Vashti Herbert and Flick Ruby



Axeman underhand event



Best horse friends



2026 Opening. Back row: Naomi Rolfe, (outgoing secretary presented with Certificate of Appreciation), President Daniel Allen, Lynsday Boyton (back), Mary and Dave Williams (Dave – 20-year committee member plaque recipient), Mackenzie Dunn – Young Woman of Cobargo Show, John Bennett RAS President who opened the show, Shona Taranto – Cobargo Citizen of the year, Mayor Russell Fitzpatrick. Front: Junior ambassadors Gypsy Rigatos, Jemima Ball, Errin Farron, Senior Vice President June Tarlinton.

Rebuild Cobargo Project – 26 March update

As we roll into autumn, we are nearing the end of the construction phase of the Rebuild Cobargo Project.

Work on all three sites of the Rebuild has never been busier and the progress since November 2025 has been immense, despite the Christmas holiday break. The work on the Village Square and the Market Hall commercial spaces and apartments is nearing completion, and the new Post Office building will soon have its internal fit-out done and the existing Post Office boxes will soon move across to the new building.

As CCDC Chairperson John Walters said, 'The facades of all the sites have opened up with the scaffolding down, and we can get a real sense of the finished product. The footpath on the Village Square side has now been reinstated and there are more parking spaces than there were before the Rebuild as the number of driveway entries off the highway has been reduced.'

The various opportunities for tenanting the commercial and residential



spaces continue to be listed and there is a lot of interest. The CCDC Board is in the process of signing up prospective tenants via heads of agreement documents. The CCDC will soon be able to offer more frequent site walks for prospective tenants to assess the spaces available to lease. As expected, demand for the five residential apartments is particularly strong.

The Turnkey Café/Restaurant, with included fit-out, is now being marketed for lease and CCDC is receiving expressions of interest and taking enquiries.

For further information, please feel free to contact Tammy Edmonds or Sarah Jolicoeur on 6492 4300 or email LJ Hookers Bega at office@ljhbega.com.au.

Look at the floor plans on our website or the LJ Hooker website listing to see what is being delivered for Cobargo. Or you can scan the QR code below.

*Deb Summer and Steve Williams
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Amazing Cobargo Community Tree consultation

Congratulations to our wonderful community for attending the recent Cobargo Community Tree Consultation in droves. It was a great combination of venue, format, photographs, graphics, and upwards of 80 community members in total.

Deb Summer and David Newell set the scene perfectly at the RSL Hall and brought us up to date with words, photos of community members making their leaves and wonderful graphics of the artists' impressions of the Tree Sculpture.

The event was a 'walk in' format allowing people to view material at their ease, ask questions and discuss things amongst themselves. Project blacksmiths Iain and Philippe were also on hand to discuss the journey so far and their vision and ongoing commitment to this amazing project.

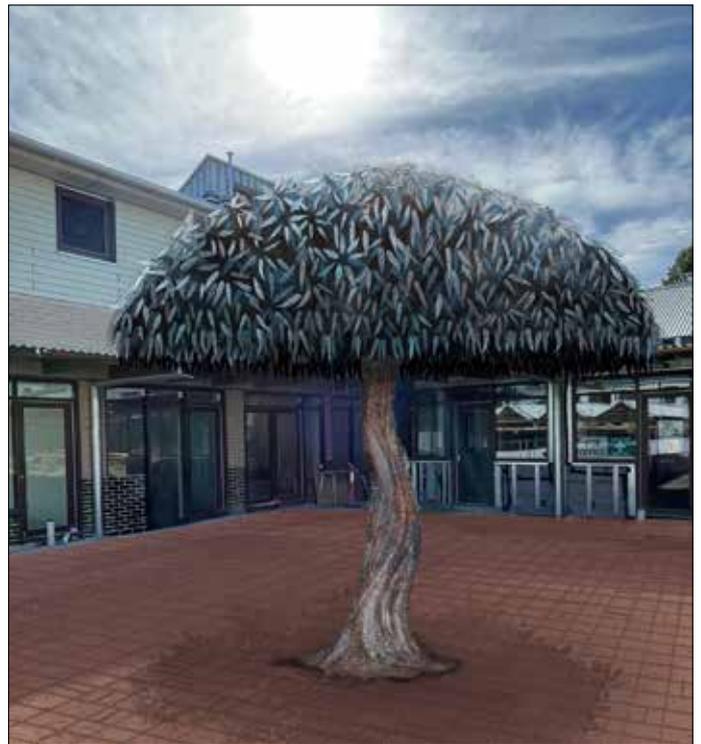
Graphic designs of the Tree were on display showing the Tree at three potential sites, namely the Cobargo School of Arts Hall, Resilience Centre and the Village Square in the Cobargo Rebuild. Attendees were given the opportunity to vote for their preferred location.

Summer enthused, 'David and I were overwhelmed by the community members' positivity, their degree of commitment to taking in all the information, and their willingness to vote after careful consideration.'

There was also the opportunity to vote using the Online Voting Form accessible via a QR Code displayed in the window at the Bower Bird Op Shop.

The vote tally showed a clear majority for the Village Square in the Cobargo Rebuild.

There is still the opportunity for individuals to stamp their name on a forged leaf – please keep your eyes on the Facebook



page, Bowerbird shop front window and the notice board for opportunities in the near future.

Over 100 new leaves were stamped at the recent Cobargo Show!

Iain Hamilton and Philippe Ravenel

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The CWA had an ideas meeting!

Members of CWA Cobargo met for the first meeting in 2026, and we spent some time catching up with each other. We decided that we would have an informal meeting where we would be looking at ideas and seeing if they were practical and could be applied.

The need for better access to our garden is a priority, now that it is in constant use. Investigations into how to make a safer and easier approach are ongoing.

One of our members expressed concern that with the increasing risk of extreme hot weather, where could elderly people without air-conditioning in their homes seek shelter? Most people in towns and cities are urged to go to the nearest shopping centre to seek relief. There are air-conditioned buildings in the village, but how are they accessed? How do we, as a community, co-ordinate responses? How do we advise those most in need and how do they get to these venues? Something to be considered and worked on in coming months.

The need for a safe crossing in the village area is a glaring

necessity, in a community with many older people. It was felt that the pedestrian refuge installed outside the Post Office is insufficient. A 'zebra' crossing and, ideally, a set of pedestrian lights such as we see in Bega and Narooma would be ideal and save lives.

The Far South Coast Group Handicraft and Cookery competition will be held at the Country Club in Bermagui on Tuesday, 10 March. Some members of our branch are busy crafting vegetables in knitting and crochet with amazing results! Anyone interested in entering the Cookery competition is urged to contact us via email or phone (it is open to everyone!).

Once more we welcome anyone interested in joining us. Why not drop in at our next meeting or contact us for more information about what we do?

Hope to see you soon!!

Mary Williams

*Cobargo Branch CWA of NSW
Email: cwa.cobargo@gmail.com
Phone: Secretary 0429 933 686*

Solar Farm Warning

Some residents in Cobargo, and particularly in the Bredbatoura area, are warning Triangle residents to be careful if multinational renewables company, EDP Renewables, tries to sell them a renewable energy proposal.

EDP Renewables recently lodged a Development Application (DA) with Bega Valley Shire Council for a 5MW solar farm, south of Cobargo. The project was sold to the community as renewable

energy but residents have expressed concern about the farm's visual impact and that it does not align with the community's energy transition goals. There is also concern that the power will go back to the grid rather than to the local community and the multinational company will make a large and unshared profit.

The Cobargo and District Energy Transition Group (CaDET) has also stated

that the DA does not address the concerns that were gathered through community consultation and was submitted against the wishes of CaDET.

Members of the public can make submissions by email, council@begavalley.nsw.gov.au, or post to the CEO, Bega Valley Shire Council, PO Box 492, Bega NSW 2550.

Marita Reynolds

Who'd like to have or apply for a job and make some money?

Good question, well asked. There are job opportunities available in Cobargo for those of us who haven't won Lotto or robbed a bank.

I understand that, at the moment, Cobargo has a shortage of workers, especially in the service industry. Some Cobargo-based employers are keen to discuss opportunities for workers with a variety of employment skills and needs.

Traditionally, working in the service industry was seen as a young person's gig but there are opportunities for people of any age who may want to work for a set period on a casual but ongoing basis or on an 'as required' basis or to fill a gap between other employment or educational obligations.

What to do next? Firstly, decide when and where you'd like to work. Perhaps chat with someone who already works there or approach the manager directly and ask if they are hiring. As simple as that.

My experience in Cobargo eateries is that the staff are great, very switched on and are from a wide age range.

In short, any prospering businesses

need workers to make their successful commercial enterprises even stronger. So, throw your hat into the ring.

Steve Williams



Bermagui Banter

Deb Worgan

Welcome to Bermagui in autumn – I think it is the best time of the year. The days remain beautifully warm, the evenings are just beginning to cool, sometimes there's a little rain and the ocean is at its most inviting – it's a season many of us look forward to.

After the torrential mid-January downpour that caused significant damage to three shops in Wallaga Street, it's heartening to see them back and operating again. They're ready to make the most of these autumn days and the steady stream of visitors still enjoying our town.

The Bermagui monthly Sunday market continues to grow, with the most recent event stretching across three full rows of stalls. From handmade soaps, teas and honey to books, jewellery and plants, there's something for every taste. The Thursday markets in front of the Bermagui RSL will keep running until the weather cools down and the Little Market continues on Saturday mornings at Honorbread. Adding to the mix is the new Food Swap at

the Dissenters' Lounge (formerly Mr Hope Coffee Shop) held at 9.30 am on Mondays – a great way to share homegrown produce and connect with others.

The annual dog shows have come and gone and, remarkably, with barely a drop of rain! These annual events bring welcome visitors to town, many of whom stay the week between shows, supporting local businesses and adding to the action and activities around the oval and beaches.

It has also been a busy summer for Marine Rescue Bermagui, their peak season for assists. Alongside numerous callouts, there has been extensive training and assessment to prepare new crew members for full duties – an enormous commitment from dedicated local volunteers.

In March, U3A Bermagui is presenting an engaging series of talks and workshops. This month's program spans science, gardening and guitar, offering a variety of entertaining and informative presentations. Check out their full program online for details.



Soren Larsen at anchor in Horseshoe Bay

It was like stepping back in time one February morning to see the tall ship *Soren Larsen* sheltered in Horseshoe Bay. Built in Denmark in 1949 and restored in 1978, she was one of the last fully traditional, cargo carrying sailing ships made for the Baltic trade. The vessel now calls Sydney home and offers day sails plus some longer voyages to the Pacific Islands.

Autumn in Bermagui has its own special rhythm – busy yet relaxed, vibrant yet welcoming. We hope to see you around town.

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Diverted - Edward Willson

Please be weed aware

Bermagui Dune Care spends a lot of time and money (through Bega Valley Shire grants) on weeding, and we'd really appreciate residents' and landowners' help in removing weeds and, especially, seedheads to ensure they don't spread.

A major one is moth vine, *Araujia sericifera*. It has a pretty white flower, but the vine grows rapidly, smothering native plants and seeding prolifically. The seed pods in the photo were collected from just one vine. Please remove it if it's growing in your garden.

Agapanthus might be a pretty and hardy perennial in the garden but becomes a pernicious weed when it escapes into bushland and roadsides. *The Triangle's* 'What's Growing On' last month reminded gardeners to deadhead agapanthus. Please make sure, if you have agapanthus growing in your garden, to remove the heads before they mature. Once you are aware that agapanthus is a weed, seeing the number growing on the side of the road is distressing, and it would be great if gardeners removed the entire plant too.

Another popular garden plant that has become a serious weed is polygala.



Moth vine has a pretty flower, but the leaves and seeds are poisonous. The latex sap can cause skin and eye irritation and, in some instances, it can cause breathing difficulties.

It is disappointing to see it still being sold in some nurseries and it should also be removed.

There are many more, including asparagus fern, bridal creeper, blackberry,



Moth vine seedpods should be bagged and put in the red bin. These pods, each containing hundreds of seeds, were collected from just one vine.

flea bane, deadly nightshade, thistles, cape gooseberry – please make sure none of these are growing in your garden, to help protect our native bushland. And when you dispose of invasive weeds, please do not put them in your green bin – bag them up and add them to your red-lidded bin.

BVSC has an excellent publication called *Grow Me Instead* on their website, suggesting alternative plants that people can substitute for weedy ones, as well as weed identification information.

Karen Joynes

emailemailemailemailemailemail *The Triangle's* email address is contributions@thetriangle.org.au

Marine Rescue Bermagui update

Summer is always a peak period for the volunteers at Marine Rescue Bermagui. With an influx of visitors, more people fishing and swimming, warmer water temperatures and long, clear days, there is a significant increase in activity on and around the water.

Since the start of the year, Marine Rescue Bermagui has responded to 13 callouts to assist boaters in need, as well as conducting a three-day missing-person search near Mystery Bay.

The search involved crews from Marine Rescue Bermagui and Marine Rescue Narooma, along with the Westpac Life Saver Rescue Helicopter, Surf Life Saving NSW, and land-based agencies including the NSW Police and SES. The operation focused on locating a 23-year-old man who had fallen several metres from a cliff into the ocean at Mystery Bay and failed to resurface. After three days, the active search was scaled back when efforts to locate him were unsuccessful. Sadly, a week later, a body was found on a nearby beach and identified as the missing man.

Fortunately, not all Marine Rescue activities end in tragedy. So far this year, crews have assisted numerous fishing and sailing people who were dealing with a range of issues, including engine trouble, steering failure, running out of fuel, taking on water and medical emergencies. In each case, those on board were relieved to see help arrive and deeply appreciative of the assistance provided.

These incidents also offer valuable opportunities for Marine Rescue crew members and trainees to maintain and strengthen their skills and improve response times.

However, the greatest assistance boaters can provide to Marine Rescue is to make safety their number one priority:



- Wear a lifejacket.
- Check the weather and ocean conditions before heading out.
- Carry sufficient fuel for your trip.
- Log On and Log Off via VHF Channel 16 or the free Marine Rescue NSW app.

By sharing your trip details, Marine Rescue knows where you're heading and when you are due back. You can log off, extend or amend your trip at any time. A quick Log On could make all the difference in an emergency and provide valuable peace of mind for family and friends on shore.

Deb Worgan

Bermagui CWA

The Bermagui CWA has begun the year with wonderful energy and community spirit, and our first Tuesday meeting for 2026 saw a fantastic turnout with many new faces joining us around the table. It was a lively and welcoming start to the year, with members old and new sharing ideas, projects and plenty of laughter. We're delighted to see such strong interest in the branch

and look forward to another year of connection, creativity and community contribution.

Our next meeting will be held on Monday 17 March at 1.00 pm (postponed by one week to accommodate the Cookery and Craft Day). This gathering will be followed by an especially delicious afternoon tea as we farewell two important long-term members whose dedication and friendship have meant so much to our branch. We hope many members and friends can join us to celebrate their contributions.

Our popular CWA Mending Workshops will also return in 2026. The first workshop will be held on Saturday 28 March, with further sessions planned for 16 May, 20 June, 15 August and 19 September. These relaxed, practical mornings are open to everyone – bring along clothing in need of repair, learn new skills or simply enjoy mending in good company.

An annual CWA Cookery and Craft Competition will be held in Bermagui on 10 March at the Country Club. It's always a highlight on the local calendar and a wonderful opportunity to showcase the talents of our community from Eden to Batemans Bay.

If you'd like to craft in company, learn something new or lend a hand with our charity crafting, you're warmly invited to our regular Craft Morning from 9.30 am on the second Wednesday of each month at the CWA Hall, 10 Corunna Street, Bermagui.

For enquiries or to become involved, please contact us at cwa.bermagui@gmail.com. We'd love to welcome you.

Rhiannon Simmonds



A vibrant embroidered felt appliqué – just one of Dee Greig's entries for the craft competition. Image Dave Ricketts

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Back to school in Bermagui

Bermagui Public School has had a great start to the year with exciting things that have happened and more to come.

With our new Parliament team elected, we are ready to push through the year together. Here is our team: Mia is Prime Minister, Radja is Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) – Laylah; Minister for Sport – Winnie; Minister for Education and Environment – Dylan; Minister for Creative Arts – Kymarni; and Minister for Community Affairs – Quinn. My name is Ruby and I am the Minister for Communication. I will be writing *The Triangle* articles all year and this is my first one. I will inform you of all the things happening here at Bermi School.

In Week 2, we had our Swimming Carnival. It was fun, competitive and lots of people won ribbons. For our Year 6 students, this was our last one. The relays

were close and everyone did great. The houses had lots of good cheering this year and I think this year it is going to be hard to pick the winner between the houses.

Some things our kids are looking forward to this year are the Stage 3 excursion to Canberra and Stage 2's big excursion to Kianniny. We have our Cross Country coming up, and our Athletics Carnival as well. We have Kaleidoscope, our famous art night, in Term 3, and this year it is the school's 150th anniversary so it is going to be a huge one!

Finally, we will have our Meet, Eat and Greet event coming up in Week 5 that will be lots of fun for our families. We also had our kindergarten pupils do Best Start Assessments where teachers have found out lots of good information about the newest additions to our school.

Thanks for reading and see you again in March!

Ruby



Fun at the Swimming Carnival



Starting school right in 2026!

Gluten-free joy at Bermagui's Sundeck



The Sundeck, Bermagui Fishermen's Wharf

A few months ago, I joined the gluten-free club – not by choice, but by necessity. Whether you're gluten intolerant or coeliac, you quickly learn that eating out can become a cautious, joy-draining exercise. Add dairy-free into the mix and suddenly your café options shrink fast.

So, imagine my delight at discovering Sundeck Café, tucked upstairs at Fishermen's Wharf with sweeping harbour views and a relaxed, sun-soaked vibe. After four months of local 'research' (purely in the interests of journalism, of course), Sundeck stands out as a genuine gem for anyone who values both flavour and flexibility.

Run for the past nine years by owner-chef Pip Sullivan and her partner Tim Carson, Sundeck has quietly mastered something rare: a menu where almost *everything* can be made gluten free. Pip bakes all her cakes in-house, and her GF bread and buns are a revelation – soft, tasty and nothing like the cardboard substitutes many of us have endured. It means you can happily order a steak sandwich or bacon and egg roll while your companions dive into panini or house-baked bread, with no sense of compromise.

Their seafood risotto is a standout – so good that plates return to the kitchen spotless every time. The fresh fish of the day, served with crisp salad and hand-cut chips, is equally impressive, as is the confit duck and king prawn platters.

Dogs are welcome outside, frozen takeaway meals like pies and vegetarian GF lasagne are available, and the coffee is excellent. Open for breakfast and lunch from Friday to Tuesday, Sundeck is the perfect spot to relax, refuel and remember that dietary restrictions don't have to mean missing out.

Donna Portland

Montreal Goldfield makeover!

Volunteers at the Montreal Goldfield, Wallaga Lake, have been busy giving the Heritage Centre a new lease of life. It has been more than ten years since the Heritage Centre opened, and the native garden was long overdue for a makeover. Pride and joy are the flannel flowers, originally planted but now spreading rapidly and, when flowering, there is a sea of velvety white flowers. A rare treat for this area!

A new fence was added between Big 4 and Montreal Goldfield late last year – and immediately ideas sprung to mind. Our ‘golden’ planter boxes have been installed, and we have received five beautiful grevilleas, appropriately called ‘Canterbury Gold’, kindly donated by Mitre 10, Bermagui.

A mining-themed sculpture and, much later, a community arts project mural are on the drawing board for the not-too-distant future. It is hoped that these enhancements will bring more visitors to the goldfield. However, the summer of 2025/2026 saw exceptional numbers of visitors and, with only five guides, double shifts were necessary. Our guides were worn out – but happy!

The Montreal Goldfield Management Committee was pleased to welcome Councillor Helen O’Neill as a BVSC representative. Helen’s first meeting had her wielding a shovel and planting new plants. We look forward to having Helen on our committee. Although, we sadly said farewell to Councillor Clare Mudaliar, who spent the last year working with Montreal Goldfield. Thank you, Clare.



Montreal Goldfield committee co-opting Councillor Helen O’Neill (front left) and Council administrator, Gabrielle Ward (front right) into planting the new garden.

Montreal has a bright future, with a new management team full of ideas to bring the Goldfield tourist experience into the 21st century.

This can only be done with the support of our wonderful Triangle community – and a call for volunteers is always ongoing. You may see us at the Bermagui Markets during the next few months with information and a friendly smile. Come say hello and hear about the things you can get involved in at Montreal. (Our wish list: trainee guides, an IT wiz, marketing co-ordinator, museum curator ...)

Carolyn Banados

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Dalmeny	Dalmeny IGA Wednesday & Friday
Broulee	Broulee Supermarket Wednesday & Friday
Tomakin	Tomakin IGA Wednesday & Friday
Pambula	Pambula Wholefoods Wednesday

The doggies are in town

Every year in Bermagui, two weekends in February are devoted to dog shows. The first is the Bega Valley Dog Show and the second is the Sapphire Coast Dog Show. Usually the dog shows are a good indicator that rain is about to fall but, this year, participants have had fine weekends to show off their dogs.

I caught up with Carmen who is the Obedience Trial secretary for the Sapphire Coast Kennel and Obedience Club. She has her work cut out this weekend making sure all the Obedience competitions run according to all the official rules and regulations. The Obedience competition runs over two nights with 120 entries this year.

The Sapphire Coast Dog Show has conformation competitions each morning over three days. This activity judges how well the dogs conform to their breed standard. There was a massive 350 entries for these events this year!

There is a group for each type of purebred dog and there are many breeds in each group. These groupings relate to what the dogs were originally bred for. There are Toys, Terriers, Gundogs, Hounds, Working and Utility dogs and Non-sporting dogs. They are judged in the morning in three different rings. To the untrained eye it seems a little chaotic, but the dog owners are well set up with tents, dog crates, grooming tables and lots of paraphernalia,

and they all know what is going on where and when.

In the evening there are the Obedience competitions. This competition is open to any purebred or mixed breed dog. The Obedience starts with walking on a lead and staying when the handler walks away, but also includes more highly trained obedience skills like finding a particular scented object and following hand commands only.

There are several subclasses for puppies too, down to as young as three months old. It is called Baby Puppies but should be called Super Cute. On the other hand, there are the very experienced dogs, who are old hands at competing and hardly

need a handler to show them off.

The dog owners find it a lot of fun and many stay for both weekends in Bermagui. The dogs also seem to enjoy it. They get to spend 100 percent of each day at a show with their favourite human, so they are happy. They also learn to be well behaved and social around other dogs.

Everyone is welcome to look on and admire the variety of dogs on show, the passion the owners have for the events they are in and to see some of the most amazing hair styles that a dog can wear!

Deb Worgan



Lola the Hungarian Puli



Leo the Basset
(all photos Deb Worgan)



Nera the Siberian Husky



Samera the Afghan

Anglican Churches of Bermagui Cobargo and Quaama

Service times in March:

Bermagui at 8.30am

1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd

Cobargo at 10.30am

1st, 8th, 15th

Quaama at 10.30am - 22nd

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Parish Administrator**

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Nippers

Surf Lifesaving Clubs in Australia are an institution dating back to the early 1900s. The iconic red and yellow flags and uniforms give many swimmers the reassurance they need to enjoy the water. Many surf lifesavers began as Nippers.

Nippers, the junior program of Surf Lifesaving Australia, is designed to introduce children, aged between five and fourteen, to beach safety, surf awareness and basic lifesaving skills. It plays a vital role in developing the next generation of surf lifesavers while promoting confidence, fitness and teamwork in a fun, supportive and safe environment. The program is run through most local surf lifesaving clubs, with structured activities on the beach and in the water, under the supervision of trained volunteers.

The Surf Lifesaving Nipper program has been running since 1961, and Bermagui has been consistently offering a Nippers program since the 1980s. This year more than 80 Nippers are registered at Bermagui and if you see them down at Horseshoe Bay, they look like they're having a ball. Saturday mornings in summer sees a crowd of children, wearing bright pink, highly visible vests, participating in a



range of fun and educational activities. There is a lot of laughter and excitement, and the children are keen to have a go and be part of the action. Focusing on participation and enjoyment, they learn to understand surf conditions and beach flags, identify rips and to look out for each other. Many Bermagui Nippers have continued into senior surf lifesaving programs as teenagers, eventually qualifying as volunteer lifesavers who patrol Horseshoe Bay or Camel Rock beaches.

Nippers' activities are age-based, with each group working toward specific skill levels and awards. Younger children focus

on shallow-water familiarity, developing confidence and basic surf awareness, while the older ones build endurance and technical skills associated with swimming in deeper water and paddle boarding.

Nippers is the first step for many in gaining lifesaving skills as well as personal development. Friendships, leadership skills and a strong sense of teamwork and community are some of the benefits of being involved. Nippers, as seen in Bermagui, promotes beach safety and also sustains Australia's proud surf lifesaving tradition.

Deb Worgan



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Camel Rock Brewhouse

What's on

WED-SAT 11:30AM- 8:30PM
SUN: 11:30AM - 4:30PM

Wed:	HAPPY HOUR 3-5pm Trivia 6pm BOOKINGS RECOMMENDED
Thurs:	HAPPY HOUR 3-5pm
Fri:	HAPPY HOUR 3-5pm
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Discovering new places must be one of the most pleasurable things to do in our south east corner of NSW. If you are in any way like us, you may have even made a list of local places in your head to discover. Late summer and early autumn lends itself to getting away for a night or two – the weather is often ideal and even if it rains it is still pretty comfortable. Packing up the car or van is also a lot easier for a day or two here and there and it’s certainly more rewarding if you only need to travel for an hour or two avoiding busy highways and tedious air travel. And, wherever your destination is, you are sure to find something to delight and excite you, afford you some respite and time to contemplate.

Making connections with the natural world features often these days, to re-centre oneself from the often confusing and confronting challenges of our modern life. For Indigenous people returning to Country is to come home, and is often described by them to be healing, both culturally and spiritually. For non-Indigenous people, place can also be important and informed by the surrounding landscape and its ancient stories.

Blessed is one way to describe where we live. It’s not always easy to make the time to find those special places. Without having to travel far though, there are many that are accessible, even for a day trip. We recently spent a couple of nights at a new place not far away and it was like an immediate antidote to all the noise and busyness – and it was easy. We all owe it to ourselves to do this from time to time.

Celebrating Yuin culture

Uncle Warren Ngarrae Foster is a Djiringandj/Yuin man who lives at Wallaga Lake. As a cultural knowledge-holder, storyteller, artist, dancer, singer and actor, he has dedicated his life to revitalising language, ceremony, song, dance and connection to Country. The significance of re-establishing language as a foundation for connection to Country and its stories through ceremony, song and dance underpins Warren’s commitment to ensuring that cultural knowledge continues to be passed on. Through his deep involvement with the Aboriginal Languages Trust initiative Yoowaga Yuinda he speaks and teaches local dialects – Djiringandj and Dhurga – and shares stories in language. For Warren, language is

in the land and during the long years when speaking in language was not allowed, it was resting in the land. It is now time to awaken language.

Warren is well known locally as the founder and leader of the Gulaga Dancers, a traditional male dance group. As well as keeping ancient traditions alive, expressing connection to Country through language, song and dance supports the cultural journey of young people, teaching them the stories of their land. Gulaga Dancers have toured nationally and internationally and have been invited to Poland for a performance in June this year.

In 2019, the first Yuin Nation Birriga Bunaan was held on the Tilba Oval. Bringing together Yuin people from across the South Coast to dance and celebrate Country, this traditional gathering had not been held for many decades. Warren and his wife Amanda were the instigators for the return of this major cultural event that is now a successful and much anticipated annual event. Warren and Amanda received an award from Fire to Flourish, who provided funding for the second Birriga Bunaan, for *Foregrounding Aboriginal Knowledge and Wisdom*. Warren continues



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Please contact Annemarie or Sophia on 0411 839 414 for more information.



Uncle Warren and Auntie Amanda Foster with their Fire to Flourish Award
Photo credit: Sean Kinchela

to lead this cultural event that now has a strong volunteer organising team.

There are many programs and activities in which Warren has been and continues to be involved – too many to be covered here. It is fair to say that his focus throughout is to mentor and support young people, reinstate language and Lore and to foster respect for Yuin culture and Country, both within his own community and in the broader community. There have been films, podcasts, guided walks on Country, mentoring groups and just recently a collaboration for the Cobargo Folk Festival – Djinjnuurun Yangamung: Sparkling Stars Sing – curated by Warren. A recent Gulaga guided walk introduced Narooma High School teachers to this sacred mountain. The healing benefits of being on Country and cultural health are foundational to much of Warren's work, reflected in programs that teach young people language, bush medicine and bush tucker. There is a current UNSW program that Warren is leading at Umbarra focussing on cultural health that he describes as designed by mob for mob.

Auntie Amanda Foster is a Kamilaroi/Djiringandj woman and Uncle Warren's wife. While she shares similar goals for her community and supports the work that Warren does, she has her own focus.

For many years, she has been involved with Merrimans Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) where she has taken on many roles. She is currently the lead Administration Officer and works out of the Outreach Centre, now that the main office has moved to Umbarra.

As a member of the LALC team, she has a significant connection with the Aboriginal Ranger Program (see February *Triangle*), supporting and mentoring the young Trainee Rangers. The Rangers played a critical role in the recent Wadbilliga fire and Amanda was instrumental in connecting Elders and cultural knowledge-holders like Uncle Graham Moore who lives on Country and works for the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water with the Rangers. Teaching the Rangers about Country ensured that the Emergency Control Centre for this fire was aware of sacred and significant sites that required protection. Caring for Country in this way, Amanda believes, is important for healing – self and country.

Amanda's deep interest in disaster resilience and cultural science has led to her representing the LALC and her community as a member of National Indigenous Disaster Resilience (NIDR) Cultural Science Team. NIDR brings together

more than 100 Aboriginal leaders and organisations with government agencies to shape a more culturally informed and co-designed approach to disaster management. A roundtable was held last November at which Amanda spoke – she is gaining confidence in public speaking – and there is a follow-up gathering at Lake Tyers in May. Significantly, Wallaga Lake now has an Emergency Action Plan as a result of Amanda's commitment, interest and involvement.

Holiday programs are part of the work of Merrimans LALC, and the longer summer break is an optimum time for such programs. As part of the focus on disaster management, local first responder organisations – RFS, Police, SES, Lifesavers – came to Wallaga Lake in January and talked to the children about what they do. This program was well received and enjoyed by the children and there will be ongoing occasions to ensure better disaster preparedness for the community. Amanda sees the connection with these organisations as an important part of building relationships and sharing cultural knowledge and practice. This will ensure better outcomes in disaster management and resilience.

In addition to this important work, Amanda has a long-standing commitment and involvement with the Little Yuin Preschool. She is the current Chairperson of the Little Yuin Board and even finds the time to drive the Little Yuin school bus. While supporting and mentoring young people is an important focus for Amanda, she also plays an active role in supporting other women, in cultural activities and sharing cultural knowledge with other groups in the community, such as the retreats run by Wyld Spaces (see following section).

For a valuable resource to find out more about the people and activities of the Yuin Nation – search Yuin Digital Keeping Place.

Retreat at Mountain View Farm, Tilba Tilba

When a group of people from the South Coast who offer something special get together, the collaboration will also be special. And so it is with a retreat from 27 to 29 March at Tilba Tilba – combining unique accommodation in a stunning location, a talented yoga and meditation facilitator, a workshop introduction to the ancient art of essential oil distillation, all supported by Ayurvedic nourishment



Jody Vassallo at a previous retreat

prepared by an experienced cook, teacher and food writer.

Monica Mudge from Wyld Spaces will guide the retreat. She is a trauma-informed yoga and meditation facilitator with extensive experience in community wellbeing, nature-based practises and working with the nervous system. With deep respect and love for this place close to Gulaga, Monica's approach is slow and relational with space for rest, exploring and gentle connection with land, body and season. Monica has guided several retreats at Mountain View Farm previously.

Jeff Allen, from Blue Moon Distillers will lead a four-hour hands-on workshop on the traditional process of essential oil distillation from the rich heritage of Australian botanicals. Preserving this ancient practice connects people with place, celebrates local flora, and the oils and blends benefit health and wellbeing. This workshop can be booked as a stand-alone event.

Meals throughout the retreat will be lovingly prepared by Jody Vassallo.

Jody is well known for her deep respect for seasonal produce and traditional food wisdom. Her approach is intuitive and nourishing drawing on Ayurvedic principles and wholefood traditions to support digestion, balance and rest.

Mountain View Farm, operated by Kathryn Ratcliffe, is a special place to stay. With the backdrop of Gulaga, it is a place with spacious grounds, gardens, open paddocks and mountain views. There is a range of accommodation options, a rustic and well equipped communal area and places to rest and wander in the fresh Tilba Tilba air.

Monica describes the retreat as *an immersive weekend of yoga, meditation, an introduction to the ancient and alchemical art of essential oil distillation with Blue Moon Distillers, seasonal Ayurvedic-inspired nourishment with Jody Vassallo and gentle connection with land, body and season.*

For more information and to book go to Facebook Wyld Spaces.

Friday Pie Day

The Central Tilba Bakery was recently visited by Pyney's Pie Reviews and Travel. Pyney, from Cooloom in Queensland, is on a mission to find the perfect pie while supporting small businesses across Australia. He is determined to visit every bakery and pie outlet across Australia. While rating the pies he discovers in his travels, he also does travel reviews of the places he visits.

At the time of writing, the review of the selected pie from the Central Tilba Bakery is pending but the comments from Pyney have been full of praise. The pies are notable for their flaky pastry and tasty and generous fillings.

Congratulations to Sonia and her team. More information on the Central Tilba Bakery and Pyney's Pie Reviews in the Travel Facebook pages.



Central Tilba Bakery's owner, Sonia, with the highly praised pie.

Tilba Titbit

A recent exchange at Ellen's Cafe – I've come for carrot cake. It's the best. Oh, there is none today. OK, I'll be back on Friday. Can't wait!

It is good – I can vouch for it!

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Local Schools Make a Splash at Combined Swimming Carnival

For the first time ever, the small schools of Tilba, Bodalla and Mogo joined forces at the Narooma pool for a combined swimming carnival, creating a wonderful day full of enthusiasm, school spirit and community support.

The focus of the carnival was participation, with events designed for swimmers of all abilities. This inclusive approach meant every student had the chance to take part, challenge themselves and enjoy the fun of the day. The willingness of students to step out of their comfort zones and support each other made the carnival truly outstanding.

Such a successful day would not have been possible without the invaluable help of parents who stepped up as timekeepers, ensuring the smooth running of events. A big thank you to all the parents for their dedication and support!

Tilba was proud to have had eleven students participate in the District Carnival on Friday, 27 February. Adding to the excitement, the Tilba P&C ran a canteen and BBQ on the day, welcoming families and students from all schools across the Eurobodalla region.

A special highlight for Tilba School



School Relay Team Extraordinaire - Grace, Edie, Tully and Lilah

is the honour bestowed upon the 4 x 50 metre Relay Team – Lilah, Tully, Edie and Grace – who proudly represented the school. To be a member of this relay team is a prized honour at Tilba, and the community eagerly supported them.

The combined carnival, in the

first week of the new term, not only showcased swimming talent but also highlighted the strength of collaboration and community spirit among our local small schools. We look forward to more shared events like this in the future!

Tania Hextell, Principal

Authentic Lives at Tilba Central Makers Emporium

Residents of Central Tilba and surrounds can expect an actual paper letter in their mailbox very soon. You'll know it's from Tilba Central Makers Emporium (TCME) because it will be sealed with wax. Inside you will discover a little bit of collectable literary magic. Keep your eyes peeled, or visit the Central Tilba Post Office to get your hands on one before mid-month.

Last year Joshua Humphreys of

Heartwood Traditional Building undertook the incredible task of building and installing the heavy hardwood timber barn doors at the front of TCME. This outstanding feature reflects the mission of Heartwood ... *we believe good building comes from patience, integrity and a genuine love of the craft. Every beam, joint and detail matters – because buildings should be made to last and made with heart.* This statement rings true for all involved at TCME. Integrity and authenticity are the lifeblood of this endeavour. It is fitting to highlight the stunning barn doors, because doors in some ways are one of the most important aspects of any building. Like all meaningful projects, patience is key. So, we patiently await the opportunity to open our big barn doors and welcome you all in.

For Tilba people and surrounding curious neighbours, TCME will be home to true craftsmanship and meaningful events with old school values rooted in longevity, skill and community spirit. At the rear of the building Station St.



The lovely door at Tilba Central Makers Emporium

Gallery will showcase fine art, facilitate workshops and host small events.

TCME is at 4 Station Street, just off Bate Street, between The Drom and The Central Tilba Bakery.

If you would like to be kept in the loop about the grand opening, events, makers, exhibitions and more via wax-sealed letters and whatnot, please visit our website: tilbacentral.com.au.

*Rune Richardson
Curator and TCME Team Member*

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Cobargo celebrates the music of Johann Sebastian Bach

What is it with Cobargo and the different music it nurtures? Not only does it have a strong folk music scene which is, of course, highlighted by the illustrious Cobargo Folk Festival but, since 2018, it also hosts the Cobargo chapter of Stonewave Taiko with weekly rehearsals and regular performances. And, in addition to all that, for the last three years it has also provided the only Australian celebration concert for Bach's birthday as listed on the 'Bach in the Subways' website.

Bach in the Subways was founded in 2010 by cellist Dale Henderson who felt more people would realise the enjoyment to be had from Bach's music if they heard it live. So he started giving free impromptu performances of Bach's cello suites in New York subways. The next year he invited some friends to join him on Bach's birthday on 31 March and, since then, the annual celebration has grown to include thousands of people playing in over 150 cities in 40 countries.

The concept is simple:

- find some people who like to play music by Bach
- find some people who like to listen to music by Bach
- find a venue (in this case: Cobargo School of Arts Hall)
- tell everyone it's free and when it's on.

This year it is on Sunday 22 March, from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm (doors open at 9.00 am).

Musicians and listeners of all ages and abilities are invited to join in this celebration, in an open and friendly environment,



where you can bring along a favourite Bach piece that you play or sing, either by yourselves or with friends. Alternatively, you can join in with the house band on *Orchestral Suite No. 1* and/or a final chorale with singers and instrumentalists. There will be tea, coffee and cake and it will be a lot of musical fun. So do come along to this free concert and enjoy keen local musicians playing the music of Bach to celebrate his 341st birthday!

Contact Kathy: kathyntyson@gmail.com or Kay: kay.scrivener5@bigpond.com for further information and instructions on how to download sheet music for the joint pieces.

Jeff Donovan



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Murrah Supper Sunday



Elias Alexander

The Murrah Hall is having its first all-ages inclusive Sunday Supper Show on Sunday 29 March from 5.00 pm until 8.00 pm.

Along with Murrah curries, there'll be kids' food and slices to complement the music of visitors Elias Alexander (US), and Shark and Fox (Can/Aus).

From intimate listening to an all-out dance floor, this double bill charts a thrilling musical journey.

Shark and Fox open the evening with fearless musicianship and magnetic interplay.

Led by the expressive pairing of Canadian Jaron Freeman-Fox and Australian Emily-Rose Sharkova, the project draws on deep folk currents while embracing improvisation, intricate rhythmic interplay and heart-melting harmonies.

For this tour, they are joined by powerhouse drummer Abby Constable of the Cracked Suzies, whose dynamic,

intuitive playing expands the duo's sonic world with striking momentum.

US multi-instrumentalist Elias Alexander closes the night with an electrifying solo set, layering electronic dance beats with bagpipes, fiddle, whistles, guitar and vocals to create pulse-driven performances that lift audiences to their feet.

After touring extensively across the US, Europe, and South America, Elias is rapidly making waves on the Australian festival circuit.

Bring your dancing shoes, curious ears and an open heart.

- Doors open 5.00 pm
- Music starts 5.30 pm
- \$10 Murrah curries (chicken or vegie) \$5.00 (and a second serve if you're still hungry)
- \$5.00 kids' food, and \$2.00 slices.

Go to the Humanitix website to book, select the place as 'Murrah' and search for 'elias alexander us'.

Howard Stanley

Botanical Impressions

This is my exhibition of botanical contact printing on fabric at the Lazy Lizard Side Room during March 2026.

I have a passion for textiles. I weave fabric, explore traditional surface design techniques including botanical contact printing, shibori resist dyeing and katazomi printing using stencils and rice paste resist, working primarily with indigo and natural dyes and I sew to try to create beautiful, practical pieces.



Botanical impressions at the Lazy Lizard

The work in this exhibition centres around botanical contact printing using local leaves and plants but focuses on the most iconic of our native trees, the eucalypts.

The process of botanical contact printing uses leaves and plant materials to create direct impressions on fabric, enhanced with natural dyes. Each print echoes nature's form, colour and texture. I am drawn to the magic and the unpredictability of this process, the way leaves release their pigments, the subtle shifts in tone and the organic patterns that can never be repeated exactly.

Printing my own fabrics allows me to transform textiles into one-of-a-kind pieces. I create bags, garments, scarves and homewares from them. I hope to maintain the beauty and integrity of the botanical materials I work with by producing pieces that others can enjoy.

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Your Easter long weekend at Four Winds

This Easter, we invite you into something even more expansive than Andrea Lam and Friends in 2025 or the Goldner String Quartet in 2024.

Across the long weekend April 3–5, Slava and Lenny Grigoryan will bring a group of truly extraordinary, multi-disciplinary artists to the Windsong Pavilion for a rare five-concert residency. Guitar, cello, piano, tabla, electric bass and vocals all feature in a trove of creative talent. Not one gala performance, but five completely distinct programs, each with its own musical narrative and energy.

- Friday: Jazz heroes
- Saturday morning: Piazzolla
- Saturday afternoon: Atmospheric
- Sunday morning: Bach
- Sunday afternoon: Original and deeply personal works

Each concert stands alone. Together, they form a one-time constellation of artists whose histories and chemistry make this exact gathering impossible to repeat.

Like Andrea Lam's chamber collaborations, and like the Goldner's profound musical dialogue, this weekend is built on deep relationships and artistic trust. Expect virtuosity, stillness, risk, warmth and the kind of on-stage connection that transforms a room.

From Bach's architecture to Piazzolla's fire, from luminous slow music to improvisatory spark, the range across the



five programs reflects who these musicians are right now.

Whether you attend one concert or

immerse yourself in all five, this promises to be one of the most distinctive musical gatherings of the year.

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Easter Exhibitions at Spiral

Gallery 1 Cash, Card and Carry

Cash, Card and Carry is an exhibition of the many and varied artworks from Spiral Gallery members and other South Coast artists. The exhibition includes painting, drawing, mixed media, textiles, ceramics, baskets and jewellery. From 13 March to 14 April Opening Friday, 13 March from 4.00 to 6.00 pm, all welcome.



Reminiscence by Sarah Buick

Gallery 2 6sixes and 7sevens

6sixes and 7sevens is an exhibition that brings together four artists, Annie Jackson, Sonja Jacob, Deborah Barrett and Sharon Cornthwaite. Ceramics, silverwork, textiles and painting are used to convey the characteristics of landscape. The four women utilise texture, colour and imagery that suggest seascapes, mountains and details of the natural world. They overlap in technique, media and themes, but explore personal aspects of their subjects drawing on travel, study and passions.

Exhibition runs from 13 March to 31 March. The opening is Friday, 13 March from 4.00 to 6.00 pm. All welcome.

Sarah Buick

Spiral Gallery, 47 Church St, Bega. Open Mon-Fri 10.00 am to 4.00 pm, Sat 10.00 am to 1.00 pm. For more information check out their website at 'Spiral Gallery, Bega'.



Platter 2 by Gabrielle Powell



Spoon, sterling silver, driftwood
by Sharon Cornthwaite



Sooty Oyster Catchers by Hilary Peterson


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SOAPI bares more than skin in *Life Drawing 301*

SOAPI's latest production, *Life Drawing 301*, doesn't just invite its audience to look – it asks them to question what they see. Set inside a life-drawing class, the work tackles body dysmorphia head-on, using non-sexualised nudity as an artistic device to interrogate how contemporary ideas of beauty, normality and worth are constructed in an image-saturated world.

Playwright Graeme Freedman makes no apology for the play's political edge. 'Theatre has always been political; everything I write is political – it's not worth the effort if it isn't,' he says. 'This play is a treatise on nudity in art, from ancient times to today. It is politics disguised as a romp.' He is particularly scathing about what he calls the 'clickbait billionaires' who profit from monetising young people through impossible bodily ideals.

That instinct to provoke, rather than placate, is central to SOAPI's artistic identity. Artistic director Robyn Freedman describes *Life Drawing 301* as a more confrontational evolution of the company's ethos. 'We aim to engage performers and audiences in questioning and reflection,' she says. 'Sometimes that's a gentle prod. This time, it isn't.'

The work's demands extend well beyond the audience. Casting proved challenging, particularly in a small regional community. 'The actors had to place enormous trust in the process,' Robyn says. 'They needed to be fully invested in their characters and in the importance of what the play is saying.'

Despite its confronting themes, humour is a vital counterweight. 'It's side-splittingly funny,' Robyn notes, 'but relatability is essential. The audience must recognise themselves.'



Playwright Graeme Freedman Photo: Joanne Junor

Rehearsals have been unusually immersive, with cast members being trained as both performers and artists. Working alongside local artist and teacher Bethany Thurtell, SOAPI has run life-drawing classes as part of their preparation. 'It's given them a deep understanding of vulnerability and, crucially, the power of their bodies,' Robyn says. 'In many cases, it's sparked a genuine love of life drawing.'

Life Drawing 301 will run at Cobargo RSL Memorial Hall over three weekends in May 2026 – dates to be confirmed. Full details will be in next month's *Triangle*.

Donna Portland

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Young people are taking over the Cobargo Showground Pavilion this April – and you're invited!

Southern Lights Festival 2026 is a youth-led creative event that's transforming our local showground into an immersive audiovisual experience on Saturday 18 April. Think live music, projection mapping, digital visuals and large-scale décor – all co-designed and co-produced by young people aged 13–24 from along the South Coast.

Before the big day, participants will spend three days in intensive workshops (15–17 April) working with experienced mentors from organisations like Cobargo Folk Festival, Bioluminescence Project, Griffith University and RMIT. They'll have hands-on experience in everything from audio production and event management to visual design, lighting and live performance.

Festival Director Scott Baker considers Southern Lights is about more than just putting on a show. 'This project gives young people real responsibility, real skills and real confidence. They're not just learning about creative industries – they're actively building one.'

The workshops are completely free and no experience is needed – just the will to create something amazing! The project is looking for at least twenty young people from the area to join one of five production teams.

On festival day, there'll be public workshops in electronic music production and DJing, plus a synthesiser expo where you can be hands-on with unique electronic music instruments. When night falls, expect a broad range of performances celebrating youth creativity and innovation.



Young people from the Bioluminescence project lighting up Ayers Walkway in Bega for the Streetlights Festival. Photo: Scott Baker

If you're aged 13–24 and want to be involved (either on stage or behind the scenes), head to bioluminescence.au/southernlights to register. Festival tickets are also on sale now.

Southern Lights is brought to you by Bioluminescence Project, Candelo Arts Society, Griffith University, RMIT and Yuin Folk Club, with support from Destination NSW and Creative Australia. I can be contacted on email at spbaker@gmail.com or phone 0432 604 886.

Scott Baker

the foundry

@bermagui

Maker's
studio and
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Announcing our new 'Threaded Perspectives' workshop program where we provide all the materials - you just bring enthusiasm!

MAY

Farmhouse Flower Heart Wreath for Mother's Day: Sun 3 @ 10am-1pm

Personalised Kimono Lounge Set (2 days): Thur 7 & 14 @ 6-9pm

Mastering your Machine & Patterns: Sun 17 @ 10am-2pm

JUNE

Disappearing 4 Patch Lap Quilt/Cover (2 days): Sun 7 & 14 @ 10am-2pm

Totally Useful Bucket Totes: Tue 8 @ 6-9pm

Mastering your Machine & Patterns: Sun 28 @ 10am-2pm

JULY

Personalised Kimono Lounge Set (2 days): Thur 2 & 9 @ 6-9pm

Disappearing 4 Patch Lap Quilt/Cover (2 days): Sun 21 & 28 @ 10am-2pm

Leather Journal Making: Thur 23 @ 6-9pm

AUG

Totally Useful Bucket Totes: Tue 11 @ 10am-1pm

Mastering your Machine & Patterns: Sun 16 @ 10am-2pm

Leather Belt Making for Father's Day: Fri 28 @ 6-9pm

Further details and booking information
scan our TryBooking QR code



Theatre Onset Brings an Ancient Comic Play to the Bega Valley

Theatre Onset is preparing to stage an Ancient Greek classic, *Lysistrata: A Woman's Translation* by Drue Robinson. This version of *Lysistrata* is the only modern adaptation of Aristophanes's classic comedy that is entirely in rhyme.

Lysistrata, an Athenian woman fed up with war, rallies the women of Greece to seize the Treasury and all its money, stage a sex strike and force the men of each warring faction to sign a truce. This makes for a fast-paced and bawdy affair, including the pompous Magistrate's antics of male domination, and the celibacy-sworn Myrrhine's relentless teasing of her sex-starved husband. Meanwhile, the Chorus of Old Women and the Chorus of Old Men square off in an hilarious battle of wits and guts, ultimately resulting in a reunion of genders, ages and political positions.

The play is directed by Mahamati and features a large cast of 25 local actors, all ages from 17 to 85 years old.

Theatre Onset invites you to experience this irreverent and very naughty play at the old Uniting Church, 125 Gipps St, Bega, with performances running from Friday 20 to Sunday 29 March.

Tickets are \$30, \$25 (concession and Theatre Onset members) and \$18 (school and Higher Education students aged 17+). Tickets are available through Trybooking – go to the website and insert Lysistrata, Bega and 20 March in the relevant boxes to buy tickets. For more information look up Theatre Onset – we're on FaceBook and Instagram.

There is very little coarse language but an enormous amount of sexual innuendo, jokes and comic violence so best if young people attending are aged over 17.

We look forward to sharing this comic piece of theatre with you!

Mahamati, Director; Theatre Onset



Seductive and loopy cast

Theatre Onset presents:

Lysistrata

A WOMAN'S translation

By Drue Robinson

Directed by Mahamati

7pm: March 20, 21, 26, 27 & 28
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Record entries for twentieth Sculpture Bermagui



2024 Metal nature and ocean Michael Blyde

Some of Australia's top sculptors will exhibit their works in Sculpture Bermagui's twentieth anniversary exhibition that has received over 300 entries in another record-breaking year.

From 7 to 15 March, the Bermagui Headland and Dickinson Park will be transformed into a stunning outdoor gallery, with large works on display against a backdrop of ocean and Gulaga Mountain. Bermagui Beach Hotel and the Bermagui Country Club will have an array of sculptures, while smaller works can be viewed at the Surf Club and Shop7 ArtSpace at Bermagui Fishermen's Wharf.

Sculpture Bermagui president Ivan Baker is excited by the quality and breadth of work in this milestone year and looking forward to welcoming the many visitors – up to five thousand over the nine-day event – to the town.

Baker paid special tribute to the founders of the event that began as Sculpture on the Edge, powered by the vision of Bermagui local Jan Ireland with the tireless support of Bill Southwood and Margaret Kenny-Levick.

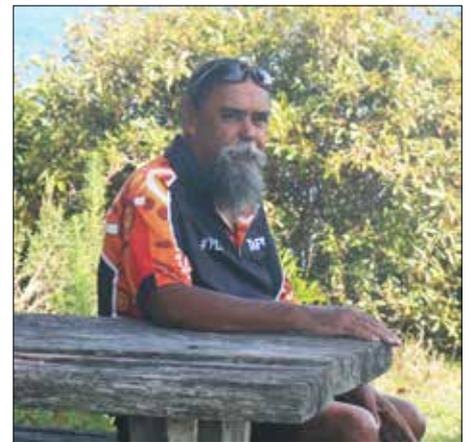
Leading sculptors, including Michael Le Grand, Jen Mallinson, James Rogers, Barbara Licha, Ulan and Rachel, David

Doyle and Susan Roberts, will be among the artists showing over the nine days.

In a special installation this year, Djiringanj elders Gary and Paul Campbell, with support from Create NSW, will recreate the camp of their great-grandfather, William Campbell, who lived on the headland until his death in the 1950s. For Gary, the chance to recreate his great-grandfather's humpy and display fishing lines, other cultural artifacts and a fireplace is a way of sharing culture with visitors.

William Campbell travelled up and down the coast following the food of the seasons: the weather, flora and tides told him the time to harvest different seafoods or go inland in search of bogong moths. He was also head of a team that built the lighthouse and buildings on Barunguba/Montague Island in 1881. He was ferried to and from the old Bermagui Wharf for the construction work.

Standing on the headland where his ancestor lived, Gary Campbell feels a special connection, saying it's where William 'watched the bush disappearing and noise coming into this place'. The Campbell brothers want to give visitors an insight into that time and urge visitors to look around, ask questions and have a yarn.



Gary Campbell

With 13 prizes on offer and over \$50,000 in prize money, Sculpture Bermagui 2026 is generously sponsored by many businesses and individuals in the town, including major sponsor, the Bermagui Beach Hotel, and long-standing patrons Philip Cox AO and journalist Janet Hawley.

There will also be a sculpture trail around the town, and a free premiere performance of *Okina Mura: Big Village*, a collaboration between FLING Physical Theatre and Stonewave Taiko on Saturday March 7 at 5.00 pm.

Cate Carrigan

Dance, drumming and sculptures – Bermagui has it all

Two outstanding Far South Coast performing arts companies will collaborate for an event to help kick off the opening of Sculpture Bermagui. Join FLING Physical Theatre and Stonewave Taiko for a world-premiere performance of *Okina Mura: Big Village* amongst the sculptures on the grass at Horseshoe Bay, Bermagui.

With music composed by David Hewitt and movement devised by Paddy Meessmann, Christopher Wade and FLING Company members, the project plays with the theme of collective energy and draws on movement patterns and tones from the natural world and those made by humans. Swarming, churning and charged with the resonant sounds of the taiko drums, it's a visual and kinesthetic clash of joyful dance, drumming and artistic expression.

FLING Physical Theatre is an award-winning, youth dance organisation based on Djiringanj land in the Bega Valley, NSW. It has been creating exceptional work with young people since 2001 and is the largest and most prominent youth dance organisation in the state. It comprises three age groups: FLING Company with performers aged 14-21, FLUX Creators aged 11-14 and YFLING aged 7-10.

Stonewave Taiko was founded by David Hewitt in 2014 in Bega and is dedicated to the art of Japanese drumming, bringing the vibrant tradition of taiko to audiences and students alike. The ensemble's performances and classes are infused



with the spirit of rhythm and community. Over the years, what started as a small group has grown to include over 35 enthusiastic members who meet weekly in Bega and Cobargo, each bringing their unique background and energy to the group.

Don't miss this exhilarating performance of *Okina Mura: Big Village* at 5.30 pm Saturday, 7 March on the grass at Horseshoe Bay.

Jeff Donovan



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Art in the Triangle

Gallery Bodalla

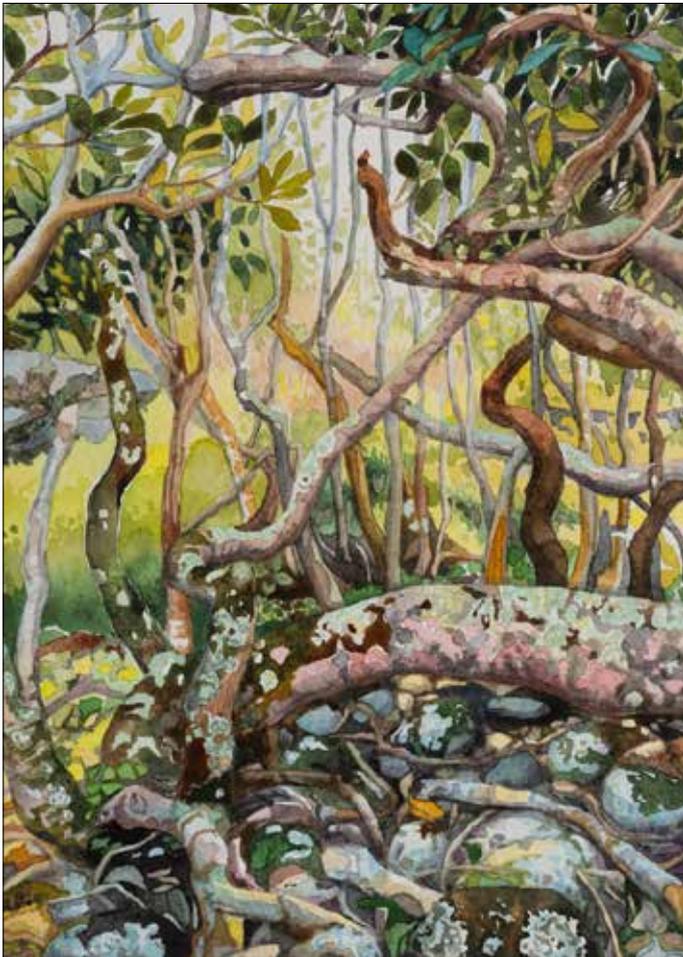
Gallery Bodalla features the works of two exceptional and much-loved south coast artists Annie Franklin and Tanja Riese, both artists well known to Triangle residents, in the next exhibition red dirt | salt water. The show runs from Thursday 12 March to Sunday 12 April

with opening drinks and artists' talk on Saturday 14 March at 3.00 pm, music by guitarist Geoffrey Potter. All are welcome.

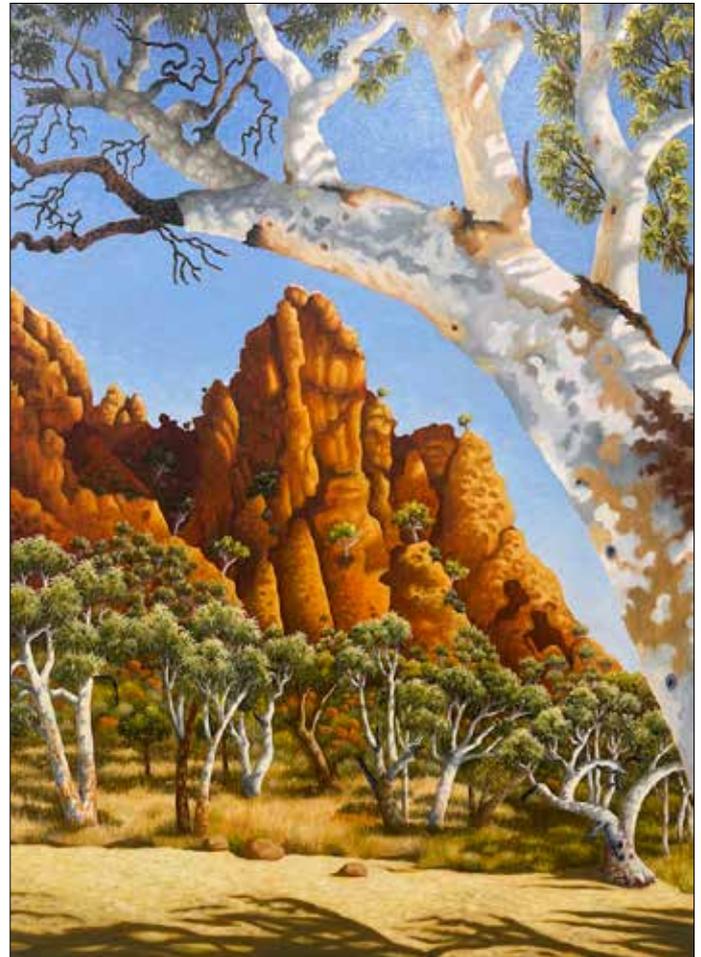
These exquisite, colourful and light-filled paintings, are inspired by both the desert and the far south coast.

Gallery Bodalla is open Thursday to Sunday (including Easter), from 11.00 am to 4.00 pm and by appointment. Call Valerie on 0421 238 174, or check the Gallery Bodalla website for further information.

Valerie Faber



Tanja Riese, *Fig Grove*



Annie Franklin, *Trephina Bluff*

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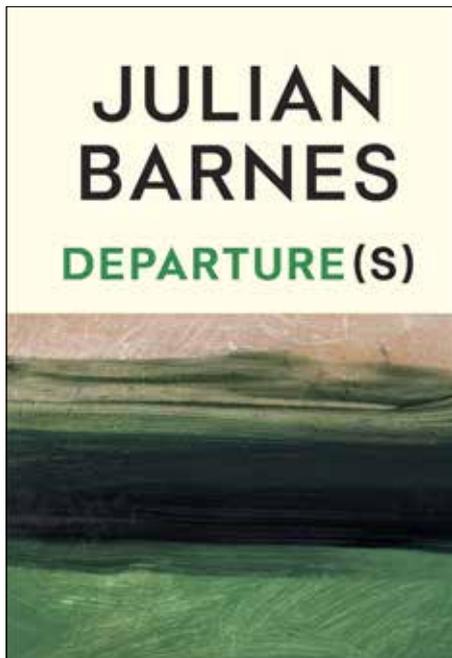
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Departure(s) by Julian Barnes,
Jonathan Cape 2026
RRP: \$34.99



Julian Barnes’s latest book adds to his list of more than 20 well-regarded novels and non-fiction, including *The Sense of an Ending* which won the 2011 Booker Prize. He was awarded the David Cohen Prize for a lifetime contribution to literature in 2011 and the Légion d’honneur in 2017.

In *Departure(s)* Barnes employs an interesting narrative structure. There is detail of the changing relationships of the two protagonists, Stephen and Jean, as they leave university and navigate ordinary and unremarkable life paths. He uses, as story, his own relations with the two protagonists, the uncertainties and lack of clarity around his understanding of his own

What we're reading



status in these relationships. And he intersperses reflections and understandings about the nature of and questions arising from his own position in the final decades of an aging life. There is also a dog named Jimmy.

While the plot line is widely meandering and thoughtful, Barnes never loses control of the onward pull of his fascination with the failing body. It's about achieving happiness and the difficulties of

recognising being happy, about the slippage between experiences and their forming into memory.

Barnes has been described as ‘a master of fiction with whole worlds living in his prose’ and as ‘clever, often original and unusually funny’.

This is a book well worth the reading time, a book that engages and questions, and leaves points of view open for book club discussion.

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Plant now for a stronger spring

Most people assume the best time for planting out and expanding the garden is when spring arrives. It feels logical. Plants come alive again after winter, nurseries full with colour and renewal is in the air.

We plant enthusiastically and, sure enough, growth follows. But as spring turns to summer and temperatures climb, that flush of new growth often struggles to cope. Despite our best watering efforts, plants wilt because the growth above ground has outpaced the growth below ground.

Roots grow according to soil temperature. In autumn the soil still holds months of stored summer warmth while nights cool and days shorten. Plants are no longer pushing soft leaf growth, so energy shifts underground. For a plant, this is perfect root-building weather.

If you plant something now it may appear to do almost nothing for months, but beneath the surface, roots extend steadily through warm soil without the stress of long hot days pulling moisture from the leaves. By the time spring arrives, autumn plantings already have a head start and behave like established plants when summer hits rather than newcomers.

This applies to almost everything that lives longer than one season, such as trees, hedges, shrubs, grasses, natives and most perennials. Even deciduous trees, traditionally planted in winter, will happily establish now. Winter planting mainly suits the bare-root industry rather than coinciding with ideal growing conditions.

The exception to the rule is summer annuals. Short-lived, warm-season flowers

such as petunias, zinnias and cosmos, along with vegetables like tomatoes, basil, zucchini and cucumbers, still prefer spring planting, as does anything especially frost-sensitive.

Assuming spring must be the best planting time simply because that's when we notice growth is a mistake. Spring is when plants show results, not when they prepare for them. By the time we see the surge, the work that supports it should already be done.

Plant now for a stronger spring and let the roots prepare the garden long before the season announces it.

Meanwhile, around the towns we have noticed the fragrant hedge favourite *Murraya paniculata* (murraya) is in full bloom, as are the tough old *Nerium oleanders* (oleander). If you are planning a murraya hedge, consider interplanting with *Michelia figo* (port wine magnolia) for additional fragrance, akin to bubble gum. Another current eye-catcher are some



Murraya paniculata



Lilium formosanum

colourful mixed stands of red and yellow canna lilies.

In the wild places on the sides of the road, one of the current standouts is unfortunately the ornamental weed *Lilium formosanum* (Taiwan Lily) that is easily recognised by its large (up to 15 cm long) trumpet-shaped white flowers, pointing horizontally atop a single strap-leaved main stem (to two metres). The flowers are highly fragrant, and you'll be doing the bush and yourself a favour if you pick some to take home and put in a vase, thereby preventing seed spread.

Finally, this month in the vegie garden we will be preparing for the first of our pea crops. Whether it's snow peas or pod peas, March is the month. On St Patrick's Day, 17 March, we also like to plant our sweet peas in anticipation of late winter colour and fragrance. Remember, peas climb and beans twine, so give your peas some mesh or chicken wire to scramble up.



Sweet peas

If you have any comments, gardening questions or plant or pest identification problems, please send them through to gardening@thetriangle.org.au and I will get back to you personally.

BERMAGUI EXCAVATIONS

- 16t Tipper truck
- 4.5t Excavator
- Tracked bobcat

- Hydraulic grab bucket
- Post hole augers
- Rock hammer ● Roller

- General earthworks
- House and shed site prep
- Footings and pier holes
- Green waste clearing
- Driveways
- Trenching for plumbing and electrical works
- Drainage
- Material delivery

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Out the back of the Cobargo Co-op on Tuesday, Friday and Saturday mornings you'll find a lively crew of volunteers running the Triangle Tool Library. If you haven't visited yet – now is the perfect time to do it.

With gardens overflowing and benchtops stacked with zucchinis, tomatoes and stone fruit, the Tool Library and its 'Food Tool Library' subgroup, is a brilliant resource for turning seasonal abundance into something delicious.

Membership of the Tool Library gives you access to a wide range of foodprocessing and preserving equipment designed to help you make the most of the summer glut. Think electric Vacola water baths for bottling tomatoes and stone fruit, passata machines for taming buckets of cherry tomatoes, dehydrators for zucchini chips, grain mills, sausage-making gear, fruit presses, juicers, spit roasts and more. You can browse the full inventory

on the website (triangletoollibrary.org.au – use the 'Kitchen and Dining' filter).

But our vision goes far beyond equipment. It's about neighbours sharing harvests, swapping skills and building a community that's confident and capable of feeding itself. We know that our backyards can grow a range of produce and with a little knowledge and access to quality equipment, people can turn that abundance into year-round food security. Reducing food miles, packaging and waste is simply a bonus.

Email us at thefoodtoollibrary@gmail.com if you'd like to stay in the loop, join our mailing list or become involved.

And because summer waits for no one, here are a few simple recipes to help you transform the season's overflow: a tangy green tomato pickle and a rich chocolate zucchini cake.

Green tomato pickles (Sally Wise recipe)

Ingredients:

- 1.5 kg green tomatoes, finely chopped
- 500 g onion, finely chopped
- 1½ tbs salt
- 1½ cups apple cider vinegar
- ¼ tsp ground black pepper
- 500 g sugar
- 4 tbs apple cider vinegar, extra
- 1½ tbs curry powder
- 1½ tbs mustard powder

Method:

Combine the tomatoes and onions in a bowl, mix in the salt and leave covered overnight.

Next day, drain off the liquid and place the tomatoes and onions in a large heavy-based saucepan. Add the vinegar, sugar and pepper. Cook for about 1 hour, stirring often.

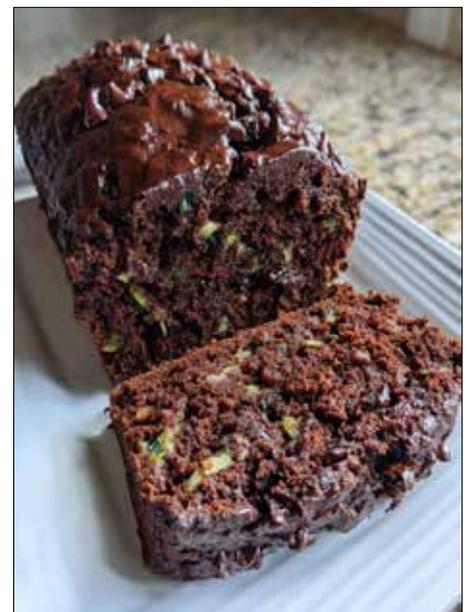
Mix the extra vinegar, curry powder and mustard powder. Once the tomatoes and onions are cooked and reduced. Add the vinegar mix to the tomatoes and onions and mix well. Cook until thickened.

Pour into warm sterilised jars and seal OR borrow the Food Tool Library electric Vacola Unit and pour into clean jars leaving 12 mm headspace and process in the Vacola Unit for the time specified for your unit.

When processing time is up, remove unit lid, wait five minutes, remove jars, cool and store.

This tastes best if flavours are allowed to develop for a few weeks. Store jars in a cool, dry and dark place for up to a year. Refrigerate after opening.

Zucchini chocolate cake



Ingredients:

- 340 g zucchini, grated
- 4 eggs
- 250 g butter or oil
- ½ tsp bicarb and ½ tsp baking powder
- 70 g cocoa
- 200 g good quality dark chocolate, coarsely chopped
- 300 g sugar
- 1 cup almond meal
- 1 cup flour or gluten-free flour
- Optional – walnuts and/or cinnamon

Method:

Set oven to 180 °C and grease and/or line a cake or loaf tin

Grate zucchini. Use soft butter or melt butter a little to make mixing easier.

Mix in sugar, eggs, grated zucchini and coarsely chopped chocolate (and walnuts if using). Then mix in all dry ingredients and pour into your prepared tin.

Bake at 180 °C until set in centre.

Let it cool before eating ... mmmm.



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Bermagui Saturdays 2pm at the Anglican Church Hall, Ph: Dave on 6493 5014

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For enquires please email: info@anglicanchurchcobargobermagui.org.au

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BERMAGUI CWA

Meet 2nd Tuesday of each month at CWA Hall, 10 Corunna Street, Bermagui. Contact Amanda Greedy 0413 613 773 cwa.bermagui@gmail.com

BERMAGUI DUNE CARE

Meets on the 3rd Sunday of each month
Contact: bermaguidunecare@skymesh.com.au

BERMAGUI GARDEN GROUP

1st Tuesday every Month 10am until 12 noon, venues vary. Phone Christine 0400 301 040

BERMAGUI HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Museum Open Tuesdays & Thursdays 10am - 2pm. Researchers & helpers welcome. Contact bermaguimuseum@gmail.com

BERMAGUI & DISTRICT LIONS CLUB

New members welcome. Meet 1st Thurs each month at Cobargo Hotel & 3rd Thurs at Bermagui Country Club at 12 for 12.30pm
Enquiries: Geoff 0407 164 466

THE BERMAGUI MARKET

Last Sunday of the month. Coordinated by the Bermagui Red Cross. Gary Stevens, 6493 6581.

BERMAGUI MEN'S SHED

Meets Tues, Thurs & Sat from 10am @ new shed adjacent to the council depot on Bermagui Tathra Rd. All men are welcome. Contact Ian Bailey 0409 691 458

BERMAGUI PROBUS

Meets at 10am to 12pm on the 2nd Monday of each month at the Men's Shed meeting room. Bermagui Tathra Rd. Contact Lorraine Courtis email lcou6446@bigpond.net.au

BERMAGUI SENIORS' SOCIAL CLUB

Meets the 1st Wed, 11.30am at the Bermagui Country Club, with social luncheons to follow. New members are most welcome. Enquiries: bermaguiseniors@gmail.com

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Bermagui - Sun 7:30am Cobargo - Sat 5pm

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COBARGO CREATORS

Established in 2012, a volunteer-run, not-for-profit art collective. Manages the Cobargo Creators Art Gallery. New members and volunteers always welcome! Committee meets monthly. email: mail@cobargocreators.org

COBARGO CWA

Meets in the CWA Rooms, 5 Bermagui St 2nd Tues of the month, 10.30am.
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COBARGO DISTRICT MUSEUM

The Cobargo Museum: researching local history, old photos & information. New members welcome.
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0455 043 489 cobargopreschool@gmail.com
www.cobargopreschool.com.au

COBARGO QUAAMA BUSINESS RECOVERY GROUP INC (CQBRG)

New Members Welcome!
Enquiries: CQBRG Secretary Ph: 0418 361 781
cqbrgroup@gmail.com www.cqbr.org.au

COBARGO RSL HALL

Hall bookings and inquiries:
Graham Churchill
0409 638 323 / cobargorsl@gmail.com

COBARGO & DISTRICT RED CROSS

For meeting dates or catering enquiries phone Kathy Rix 0488 048 701

COBARGO SCHOOL OF ARTS

Hall bookings and inquiries:
Don 0432 508 518 / cobargohall@gmail.com

1ST COBARGO SCOUT GROUP

Children 6 - 18yrs. Meetings 6.30pm to 8pm in school term Cobargo Showground dining hall. Contact Graham Parr on 0429 936 795.

COBARGO SHOWGROUND

Contact: Mike Nicholas m: 0414 012 287
miknik62@hotmail.com for bookings

COBARGO SHOW MEETING

Monthly 2nd Wednesday, 7.00 pm - Cobargo Showground dining hall. Contact Naomi 0417 456 354 secretarycobargoshow@yahoo.com.au

COBARGO TOURIST & BUSINESS ASSOC

Meets every 2nd Tuesdays, 6pm @ the CWA cottage. Contact: Janet Doolin 0409 033 828

DIGNAMS CREEK COMMUNITY GROUP

Meets randomly. Contact Nick van Stek, Pres. 0439 361 118 or Felicity Ruby, Sec. 0452 161 673

KAMALASHILA TIBETAN BUDDHIST CENTRE

Every Sunday
Sunday guided meditation 10am - 11am
Self-guided meditation 10am - 11am
By donations. Everyone is welcome.
9000 Princes Highway, Tilba

MACKILLOP FAMILY SERVICES

Empowering children and families.
Become a foster carer today.
Contact: 1300 791 677

MOBILE TOY LIBRARY & PARENTING RESOURCE SERVICE

All parents of children 0-6 welcome to join.
Enquiries: 6496 1918

OPEN SANCTUARY AT TILBA TILBA

Meditations, discussions, guest speakers & special events. opensanctuarytilba.org and on facebook.
Contact: Linda Chapman 0422 273 021

QUAAMA / COBARGO QUILTERS

Meets Mondays 10am-3.00pm in the CWA Cottage, Bermagui Road, Cobargo. Anyone welcome who does patchwork, quilting, or any other fibre or needlecraft. Contact Lorraine James 0459 022 368 or Leanne Tett 0408 627 103

QUAAMA MEN'S SHED

Meets Weds from 10am, 20 Bermagui Street John Preston (President) 0429 179 184
Ron Higgins on 0408 788 528.
All men are welcome.

QUAAMA SCHOOL OF ARTS

Hall bookings and inquiries:
Call 0490 902 616
quaamahallbookings@gmail.com

SOAPI COMMUNITY THEATRE

School of Arts Players Inc (SOAPI) writes, produces and performs theatre in the region. 10 years to adult. No experience necessary. Facebook @SOAPItheatre or call Robyn Freedman 0410 525 968

TILBA CWA

Meeting 2nd Thursday of the month, 10.30am
Tilba small hall, Bate Street, Central Tilba
Contact: Teresa Stubbings 0417 418 447

TILBA MARKET

Home grown, Hand made, Grow it, Make it, Sew it, Bake it. Saturdays 9am to 1pm, Bate St, Central Tilba
Stall booking essential. Phone 0490 130 478.

TRIANGLE TOOL LIBRARY

Behind the Cobargo Co-op
Open 9am-12pm on Tues, Fri and Sat
www.triangletoollibrary.org.au
Lynn 0411 432 533 or Nacre 0419 425 208

U3A BERMAGUI

Lifelong Learning Opportunities
For a full list of courses and timetable visit: u3abermagui.com.au

UNITING CHURCH SERVICES

Narooma - Sundays at 9am, 134 Wagonga St.
Cobargo - 2nd Sunday at 11.00am.
4th Sun Prayer & Praise (ecumenical) at 11am.
38 Bermagui Road, Cobargo
Phone Di: 4476 2024 mtdromedary.uca.org.au

THE YUIN FOLK CLUB

The Yuin Folk Club organises the annual Cobargo Folk Festival and hosts folk music concerts throughout the year. Details at www.cobargofolkfestival.com
Ph. Secretary Chris Walters 0476 787 480, Treasurer Peter Shears 0439 738 377 or email info@cobargofolkfestival.com

For the fridge door

MARCH	WHAT	WHERE	TIME
All March	Botanical Impressions exhibition by Delma Rosemund pg 27	Lazy Lizard side room, Cobargo	M-F 10-3 Sat 10-1
Weds 4	Family Nature Play pg 6	Bruce Steer Pool, Bermagui	10am
Weds 4	Mental Health workshop pg 5	Bay Pavilions, Batemans Bay	1pm-3pm
Fri 6	Bleak Squad Strange Love	Four Winds, Barragga Bay	7pm
Fri 6 to Sun 8	Narooma Seniors round robin tennis tournament, online entry forms pg 6	Narooma Tennis Club	All day
Sat 7 to Sun 15	Sculpture Bermagui pg 33	Bermagui Headland and Dickinson Park	All day
Sat 7	Charlie & Sarah	Camel Rock Brewhouse	3-6pm
Sat 7	<i>Okina Mura: Big Village</i> , FLING Physical Theatre and Stonewave Taiko pg 34	On the grass at Horseshoe Bay, Bermagui	5.30pm
Sun 8	Steve Jackson	Camel Rock Brewhouse	1-4pm
Mon 9	Mental Health workshop pg 5	Online using Microsoft Teams	10am-12pm
Tues 10	Annual CWA Group Craft and Cookery Competition, \$5 Pg 15	Bermagui Country Club Auditorium	12.30 to 1.30pm
Fri 13	Coast and Country Community Services Open House pg 6	83 Bega Street, Bega	11am to 12.30pm
Fri 13 to 14 April.	Spiral Easter Exhibition, Cash & Carry, works by members pg 29	Spiral Gallery 1, 47 Church St, Bega	M-F 10-4pm Sat 10-1pm Opening 4-6pm
Fri 13 to 14 April	Spiral Easter Exhibition, At 6sixes and 7sevens, four artists working in a range of media pg 29	Spiral Gallery 2, 47 Church St, Bega	M-F 10-4pm Sat 10-1pm Opening 4-6pm
Sat 14	Book launch, <i>Garnet</i> by Jen Severn	Cobargo RSL Hall	10.30am
Sat 14	Ian Treloar	Camel Rock Brewhouse	3-6pm
Sun 15	Gryphon Baryton Trio Joyful Haydn	Four Winds, Barragga Bay	2pm
Sun 15	From First Light	Camel Rock Brewhouse	2-5pm
Fri 20 to Sun 29	Theatre Onset presents <i>Lysistrata: A Woman's Translation</i> , tickets at TryBooking online pg 32	Old Uniting Church, 125 Gipps St, Bega	Thu-Sat 7.00-9.30pm Sun 1-3.30pm
Sat 21	Rob Simpson	Camel Rock Brewhouse	3-6pm
Sun 22	Celebrate the Music of Bach pg 26	School of Arts Hall, Cobargo	Doors open 9am Music 10am to 1pm
Sun 22	March for Native Forests pgs 1 & 5	Littleton Gardens, Bega	10.30am to 12pm
Sun 22	Solo West	Camel Rock Brewhouse	1-4pm
Sun 22	Queen Porter Stomp Windsong Sessions	Four Winds, Barragga Bay	2pm
Sat 28	Loose Change	Camel Rock Brewhouse	4-7pm
Sun 29	Nice Verdes	Camel Rock Brewhouse	2-5pm
Sun 29	Murrah Sunday Supper with Elias Alexander (US) and Shark & Fox (CAN/AUS) booking Murrah Hall online pg 27	Murrah Hall, south of Bermagui	From 5pm