

FEBRUARY 2015

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Bay Post MORUYA (/)

Eurobodalla's ERA faces split

By KERRIE O'CONNOR

Feb. 13, 2015, 6 a.m.

They were elected on a united front to reform Eurobodalla Shire Council, but now the ERA is itself in danger of a split.

Councillors Neil Burnside and Peter Schwarz publicly parted company with party members Milton Leslight and Liz Innes during this week's controversial vote on a rates rise.

A party meeting on Monday will determine if the rift is permanent.

With the shire facing a proposed 8 per cent annual rate rise over three years, Cr Burnside successfully amended that to 6.5 per cent, annually.

He won the support of Cr Schwarz and all councillors except his ERA colleagues, who wanted a smaller rise.

ERA councillors have not always voted as a bloc, but Tuesday's disagreement obviously ran deep.

On Thursday, Cr Leslight confirmed ERA members would meet next week.



Neil Burnside



Peter Schwarz

“Our organisation has got a strong view as to what is in the best interests of our community,” Cr Leslight said.

He said he also spoke for Cr Innes.

“We are disappointed with the outcome,” he said.



Milton Leslight



Liz Innes

"It is important for us, as the largest community representative group, that we look

It is important for us, as the largest community representative group, that we look at it with a clear and concise direction.

"Councillors Burnside and Schwarz have elected to take a different stance to that which, in our view, is in the best interests of the community."

Asked if the ERA might be two members short after Monday's meeting, Cr Leslight would not be drawn.

"I can't forecast what might come out of Monday night's meeting," he said.

"The executive needs to seriously consider its core values.

"I have a personal view, but it is not appropriate to comment."

A rift had clearly developed before Tuesday, with both sides accusing the other of keeping them in the dark.

Cr Leslight said he did not see a copy of Cr Burnside's amendment until five minutes before the meeting.

"We were denied that until 9.55 on Tuesday," Cr Leslight said.

"We requested that of Neil Burnside and of the administration.

"It was made public to others but we were denied.

"It was incumbent on the council to furnish a councillor with this."

However, Cr Burnside said Crs Leslight and Innes had not shared their alternative proposal.

"I understand they have come up with a number of 3.6 per cent," he said on Thursday.

"If they had done that before the vote, we could have crunched it and found out what the financial deficit would be in 10 years.

"We could have gone through the numbers and demonstrated if it was feasible.

Asked if the alliance was permanently damaged, Cr Schwarz said "any political organisation (has) argy bargy".

"Councillor Burnside and I, as Audit Committee members, determined that we must act financially responsibly," he said.

"We negotiated with our fellow councillors a lower rate, that will balance the books.

"No-one else yielded any detailed alternative to the annual \$4 million revenue shortfall that would be acceptable to the state government."

Asked if he would remain an ERA member, Cr Schwarz offered conditions.

"If the ERA offers constructive ways to reform council that are fiscally responsible, and meet legislative and regulatory requirements set by the state government, ERA will continue to have my ear," he said.

Cr Burnside said compromise outside party lines had been necessary.

"There is no point coming up with a number if you can't get the majority of councillors to support it," he said.

"We wanted to reduce it as much as we could, while still able to demonstrate that what we came up with would improve council's financial position.

"I have been trying to get it down under 6 per cent, but when we looked at the figures and the list of infrastructure projects the community wanted, we realised (it) wouldn't be achieved."

Cr Leslight and Innes argued the rise would cause hardship in an already struggling community.

"Cr Leslight and Cr Innes don't have a monopoly on concern for the disadvantage, but that can't be the only factor," Cr Burnside said.

Cr Burnside is away and will miss Monday's meeting.

He admitted his membership was uncertain.

"It isn't always up to us - the committee will decide," he said.

"This isn't about walking away with a huff.

"We are all in this together; we have to come up with solutions and not more problems.

"This has definitely put a strain on our (ERA councillors) relationship, but it doesn't need to be forever.

"I am happy to remain a member if we go down a responsible path.

"We were elected to reform (the council), not destroy it.

News Business

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Narooma News (1)

Eurobodalla Council proceeds with 6.5% SRV

Feb. 10, 2015, 2:13 p.m.

Ratepayers could be slugged with a 20.8 per cent overall rate increase over the next three years after Eurobodalla Shire Council resolved to apply for an additional 6.5 per cent special rate variation (SRV).

At its meeting on Tuesday, the council voted to apply to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) to increase its rates above annual rate pegging increases by an additional 6.5 per cent for three years.

This was less than the eight per cent annual increase recommended by council's general manager, which would have resulted in a 26 per cent compounded increase at the end of the three-year period.

The change was put forward by councillor Neil Burnside, who also recommended that the extension of Captain Oldrey Park and the Moruya Library be removed from council's list of priority projects to be funded by the increase, if it is approved by IPART.

The recommendation was in light of council's community consultation which showed overwhelmingly that residents were against the increase.

Cr Burnside said council needed to find a solution to its \$4 million, and growing, shortfall.

"The gap in our spending against what is required to maintain our infrastructure is widening," he said.

"The decrease from 8 per cent to 6.5 per cent reflects what the community has been saying to us.

"At the same time it is justifiable."

Councillors Liz Innes and Milton Leslight spoke against the rate rise and said council was not listening to the community.

Cr Innes said there was no doubt that the community had rejected the SRV proposal.

"I am listening to our community," she said, before casting her vote.

"Council has failed to listen to our community on the Local Environment Plan, sea-level rise and now the SRV.

"We, as councillors, must take the community's concerns into account."

Cr Leslight said the community was already "struggling" the pay bills and put food on the table.

"They can not afford a rate rise," he said.

"Council needs to live within its means.

"When is this council going to give the ratepayers value for their money?"

Councillors Fergus Thomson, Gabi Harding, Burnside, Danielle Brice, Rob Pollock, Lindsay Brown and Peter Schwarz supported the amendments.

Cr Schwarz said council was responsible for making sure it was financially stable.

"Costs are up and revenue is down," he said.

"This is a fiscally responsible measure that will leave this shire socially and economically better off in the longer term.

"It will lead to increased investment and employment opportunity for the community for the future."

Four people also spoke in public forum on the issue, all of them against the rate rise.

Dalmeny resident Ian Hitchcock also presented a petition against the rate rise, to which he said had attracted 7326 signatures.

Council will now proceed with preparing an application that will be submitted to IPART by February 16.

IPART will not determine council's application until May 2015.



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Bay Post MORUYA (/)

Council backs 6.5% rate rise

Feb. 10, 2015, 2:13 p.m.

Ratepayers could pay a 20.8 per cent overall rate increase over the next three years after Eurobodalla Shire Council backed a 6.5 per cent annual rate rise.

At its meeting on Tuesday, the council voted to apply to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) for a Special Rates Variation for an increase above the tribunal's annual pegged amount.

A council spokeswoman said on Wednesday, February 11, that, if granted, rates would rise by 6.5 per cent, a figure which included the annual pegged amount.

In the 2015/16 financial year, rate increases are pegged at 3 per cent.

The rise was less than the eight per cent annual increase recommended by council's general manager, which would have resulted in a 26 per cent compounded increase at the end of the three-year period.

The change was put forward by councillor Neil Burnside, who also recommended that the extension of Captain Oldrey Park and the Moruya Library be removed from council's list of priority projects to be funded by the increase, if it is approved by IPART.

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Bay Post MORUYA (/)

Councillors recognise funding shortfall

By EMILY BARTON

Feb. 6, 2015, 7 a.m.

EUROBODALLA councillors say while they are aware of the community's opposition to a special rate rise, roads, bridges and infrastructure upgrades need to be funded.

After several months of debate on the issue, a decision to apply to Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal for a 26 per cent compounded rate rise will be made next week.

The *Bay Post/Moruya Examiner* contacted councillors this week to gauge whether they supported the rise.

Councillor Neil Burnside said the opposition to council's Special Rate Variation (SRV) was to be expected.

"Not many people anywhere, when asked if they wish to pay more rates or taxes to any level of government say yes," he said.

"Councillors weren't elected to make popular decisions at the exclusion of everything else.

"We have an annual shortfall in revenue of many millions of dollars which we need to fund roads, bridges, upgrades to toilet blocks and maintenance to libraries and swimming pools."

While he supported the SRV, he also shared the community's concern at the size of it.

"There is a lot more to do in continuing the path of reform we were elected to implement," Cr Burnside said.

"We need to find considerable savings, even if the increase is approved, to balance the books and not let us be a burden on our children."

Councillor Peter Schwarz said council had made a good start identifying savings and would continue to do so.

"It is apparent that even with the savings made, there is a major shortfall in council revenue and it is only getting bigger," he said.

"Council must sit within stringent financial parameters and the organisation must demonstrate that we have a plan to balance the books."

Councillor Liz Innes said she would not support the SRV in its current form but would support a "very moderate" rate rise.

"I understand we have a gap and that we need to address it but I don't think

the community has the ability to pay,"

she said.

"Many people have contacted me concerned with the SRV. It is a hot topic and no matter who you are, you cannot ignore what our community is telling us and that is that they don't want a rate rise."

Cr Danielle Brice said she was still considering the proposed rate rise.

"I will make my decision after reading the council report, listening to further comments from the public and the debate on Tuesday, when council will make its decision," she said.

Councillors Lindsay Brown, Rob Pollock, Gabi Harding and Fergus Thomson did not respond to calls or emails by the time of print on Tuesday.

Cr Milton Leslight has been very vocal in his opposition to the rise, circulating a petition against it, which has attracted thousands of signatures.

He believes the community would not be able to afford the increase.

"The community is battling to pay petrol, phone bills and other costs as it is," he said.

He said although council needed to make good business decisions, it also needed to "live within its means".

Related coverage: [Council general manager endorses SRV application \(http://www.batemansbaypost.com.au/story/2864022/council-general-manager-endorses-srv-application/?cs=228\)](http://www.batemansbaypost.com.au/story/2864022/council-general-manager-endorses-srv-application/?cs=228)

News Business

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Bay Post MORUYA (/)

Council general manager endorses SRV application

Feb. 5, 2015, 3:11 p.m.

EUROBODALLA Shire Council's general manager has recommended to council that it apply for an eight per cent annual special rates increase, despite receiving 265 submissions against the proposal and only six in support.

In her report to be considered at Tuesday night's council meeting, general manager Catherine Dale recommends that an special rates variation (SRV) of eight per cent proceed on the grounds that it would have "a significant and positive impact on council's long term financial position and its ability to provide responsive and safe community and transport infrastructure".

The eight per cent increase would have a cumulative increase of 25.97 per cent over three years, including the state government allowed rate peg rises, generating an additional \$7.3 million in revenue.

It would then become a permanent part of the rate base after year three.

If approved by the Independent Pricing and Administrative Tribunal (IPART) Dr Dale says the proposed SRV will "be a proactive measure toward addressing the infrastructure funding gap as well as addressing immediate infrastructure needs".

If the gap is not addressed, she said the community would "experience a steady decline in the condition of its infrastructure, leading to reduced levels of service, reduced public safety, higher risks of infrastructure failure and higher maintenance costs".

Council received 272 submissions by letter and email on the proposal; five were in support, one gave conditional support, 261 were in opposition and five contained a number of questions.

A further five late submissions were also received; one in support and four in opposition.

Dr Dale said the submissions indicated a "significant level of community awareness achieved during the consultation".

She said that since council's December 9 meeting, a service review of human resources identified savings of \$140,000 by improving efficiencies and absorbing administration. These changes are due to take effect in 2015-16.

If councillors support Dr Dale's recommendations on Tuesday night, an application will need to be prepared and submitted to IPART by February 16.

IPART will not determine council's application until May 2015.

The Bay Post/Moruya Examiner welcomes your comments. Email your letters to the editor to carmen.mcintosh@fairfaxmedia.com.au



From the Editor's desk

IT is interesting to note that one of the Eurobodalla Ratepayers Association (ERA) objectives listed on its website is "to make public meetings free and open to all residents and to invite media representatives to attend and report meetings".

While the ERA has not formally laid claim to Thursday night's meeting, it was run by an ERA councillor, and attended, as this publication understands, by more than a few ERA members and supporters.

The Batemans Bay Chamber of Commerce was not formally invited to be represented at the meeting, nor was the *Bay Post/Moruya Examiner*.

As one reader commented on the *Bay Post/Moruya Examiner* website this week, people have the right to hold meetings and invite whomever they choose.

I wholeheartedly agree, but if the people holding said meetings expect the media to report on its outcomes, then in the name of honesty and transparency, the media should at least be given the opportunity to bear witness to the event.

Instead, on Friday, when the *Bay Post/Moruya Examiner* heard of the meeting from a community member, organisers would not comment "on the record" about it.

In what closely resembled the process of obtaining comment from Eurobodalla Shire Council's media department, we were told a media release was being prepared and would be forwarded to the *Bay Post/Moruya Examiner* on Monday.

The releases stated that there has been calls for a public meeting "to get the entire Eurobodalla community behind the push for council reform".

Let's hope that if one is organised, that the entire community will be on the invitation list - including other councillors and council's executive and planners, who should be given the opportunity to state their case.

But the real question is what will be done about this community unrest.

The community is sending its message loud and clear: It is not happy with how things are being done by Eurobodalla council, of which the meetings co-organiser, councillor Milton Leslight, is a part.

It puts him in a difficult position, given he was the only councillor to witness the uproar.

Cr Leslight now holds the power to bring the matter to council and take action on the resolutions.

VOX POP: Do you think the Queensland election result will be reflected in the NSW March election?



Jacki Harding
SURF BEACH
"The way Tony Abbott is at the moment, I think there could be a big swing."



Lloyd Pearce
TERREY HILLS
"I think it will reflect the silly things that Tony Abbott is doing."



Sue Stuart
DAPTO
"Definitely, Tony Abbott is going about everything the wrong way."



Kerry Pree
SURFSIDE
"Yes, I do, because I think Labor will be back in and Tony Abbott will lose his leadership."



Sharyn Manlon
CURROWAN CREEK
"Oh, yes, definitely. Tony Abbott is a fool."

Idea floated

THE obvious popularity of the visit by the replica Caravel - Portugal, suggests a permanent display of retired navy ships tied up in Batemans Bay could offer an additional tourist attraction to the area.

The Maritime Museum in Sydney is a great example of what is possible.

Perhaps worth some serious investigation by Eurobodalla council business development.

Peter Moore
Long Beach

Carts and horses

COUNCIL has indicated its intention to apply for a large 26 per cent special rate variation.

Amendments proposed by councillors Peter Schwarz and Neil Burnside note that council will need to continue to identify and implement efficiency savings in addition to an SRV process.

I suggest it is a little late now for such vague promises. Clearly council has put the cart ahead of the horse.

Council has had decades to seriously look at staffing efficiency and increased outsourcing to specialist providers.

Given the very ordinary

track record of savings and the fact that the current culture of council is to defend, protect and grow the empire, don't hold your breath while waiting for change.

To become fit for the future council does not need additional flab (an SRV) - it needs to become trim, taut and terrific.

Less government protection of industry has given Eurobodalla residents cheaper goods over the past 30 years. Less protection of council would give us cheaper services.

Let the deciders, IPART, hear your opinion.

Owen Cartledge
Malua Bay

Fueled concerns

I READ with interest a couple of weeks back one of your reader's hopes that the new fuel outlet on the north-east edge of town might be a circuit breaker to our out-of-wack petrol pricing.

Sadly this has proven to be a pipe dream.

On returning from Sydney recently, where fuel was being advertised everywhere for under \$1 a litre, you could imagine my shock to trundle down the Kings Highway's last incline to see in big bold numerals petrol at \$1.27

per/l. Last week the difference was ONLY a paltry 19 cents higher.

It is my belief that the same Nowra-based Sir controls not only this new station but has and does own/control the overwhelming majority of the Bay's fuel outlets and has done so for some years.

If this is in fact the case, and in light of the same pricing across all of these different outlets, is this not a case of possible price fixing/gouging?

Can the esteemed editor inform we the readers what constitutes restrictive trade practice?

Mark Flack
Batemans Bay

Exploration needed

I DON'T support the 'special rates variation' proposed by council.

I'm old-fashioned enough to believe that council should be financially responsible and work within its budget.

Moreover, I can't see the value for residents of some of the proposed projects many of which seem to be exclusively for tourists.

The Bay Post reported (November 26,14) that the

total number of visitors to the Eurobodalla from June 2013 to June 2014 was 1.2 million and the total number of nights stayed was 1.5 million. And this summer has again been very busy.

I'm sure that with a bit of creative thinking, council's money men could come up with an alternative to the rates hike.

Why not a bed levy on visitors?

If every tourist paid \$1 per night, we would rake in \$1.5 million, minimum - ample for our needs and it would relieve residents of this new tax.

I'm sure the financial staff could work out how to implement such a levy so that it conforms to state and federal tax regulations.

D Robinson
Batemans Bay

Attitudes gauged

IT would appear that I am now accused of organising a secret anti-council meeting at the Starfish Deli in Batemans Bay, without inviting the media or general public.

The meeting at the Starfish reception room was arranged at the request of a group of business people who wanted to quietly gauge the attitude of the

Eurobodalla business community towards the detrimental effects some council policies were having on local business conditions.

Invitations were sent out to a cross section of business men and women, who would reflect the attitudes of the wider business community. The organisers expected a reasonably good attendance, but had no idea that almost every invitation would be taken up. The number of attendees was completely unexpected and the intensity of the outcry against council was overwhelming.

The public should be aware that as an elected councillor, I did not participate in any of the motions or resolutions of the meeting. The motions were drafted by members of the business community and moved, seconded and passed unanimously by attendees at the meeting. What I can say, is that I am now much better informed about the attitude of the business community towards our council, and I will be doing my best to promote the changes that this section of the community is demanding.

As far as the general public is concerned, I am well aware of community attitudes towards council from the Long Beach / Maloneys Beach SRV meetings, and the representations I receive on a daily basis. I might add that there were calls from the floor last Thursday night for a public meeting to get the entire Eurobodalla community behind the push for council reform.

I cannot organise such a meeting, but I would be more than happy to attend and contribute to the debate.

Cr Milton Leslight
Batemans Bay

Residents need to face the music

RECENTLY a noise complaint was received about music played in the covered entertainment area of the Bayview Hotel.

I understand the complaint originated from one or more of the residents of the Illawarra Retirement Trust apartments.

It was argued during the alternative design phase of

the new shopping centre, of which I had input, that encouraging older residents to live in proximity to the existing CBD and a new active shopping complex was ill advised.

One offset suggested was double or triple glazed windows.

There is an obligation to the young people of

Batemans Bay to give them entertainment alternatives, preferably in a safety-controlled environment.

As it stands, I understand, On The Pier have had outside music restricted or stopped, the very popular bowling club night club was pressured to stop and now the

Bayview Hotel has been stopped.

There is serious social and financial implications not giving young people a central, controlled once or twice a week entertainment venue.

Heath Pike
Batemans Bay

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Bay Post MORUYA (/)

ERA proposes SRV alternative

Feb. 4, 2015, 8:30 a.m.

The Eurobodalla Ratepayers Association is calling on Eurobodalla Shire Council to scrap projects with little community support and to confine its special rate variation (SRV) to an annual amount.

In a media release distributed yesterday, ERA convenor Geoff Plews said the group understood the need for council to have a reliable source of income to address the infrastructure renewal/mainten-

ance gap, but questioned the strategy of “establishing this on the back of a large program of small, discretionary projects of varying merit which the community cannot afford”.

The ERA is instead recommending that the council confine its rate rise to an annual amount sufficient only to cover the interest and capital repayments on increased loans of \$10 million.

To achieve this reduction it proposes that council scrap projects identified in its recent Micromex survey as having the lowest community support, namely the Moruya Library extensions, improvements to local halls, provision of accessible viewing platforms and the upgrades to sportsgrounds, local reserves and parks.

Mr Plews said that together these reductions could cut up to \$10 million from the program.

“Essential, loan-funded infrastructure projects with a demonstrated economic development purpose, for example roads, bridges, culverts, town centre revitalisations, (and the) Caseys Beach rock wall, should stay in the program,” he said.

"If annual interest payments and capital repayments for only these projects were recovered through an SRV the burden on ratepayers could be reduced to an ongoing level of about \$1 million a year."

Mr Plews said the council's role was to supply and maintain public infrastructure that the community needs and can afford.

"The reduced program recommended will address the most important components of the infrastructure gap for the time being," he said.

"However, it will not assist an earlier achievement of a balanced operating budget and some community backlash from cancellation of small community projects can be expected.

"ERA believes the appropriate time to pursue the balanced budget objective through rate rises is after council has demonstrated to ratepayers' satisfaction that all potential sources of internal savings and external funding have dried up.

"While council's current proposal is unacceptable to the community, a better targeted and greatly reduced SRV application has some prospect of community support and IPART approval."

Mr Plews added that the ERA also believed other sources of council revenue and cost savings were yet to be exhausted.

"Council holds considerable cash reserves, surplus operational land and commercial assets," he said.

"The long-delayed service review has considerable potential for further savings.

"Anecdotal examples of waste continue to be reported to ERA. All these matters have been ignored in the financial estimates."

The Bay Post/Moruya Examiner welcomes your comments. Email your letters to the editor to carmen.mcintosh@fairfaxmedia.com.au



JANUARY 2015

Date	Publication	Article Title
21 January 2015	Narooma News	Letter to the editor
21 January 2015	Bay Post/Moruya Examiner	Letters to the editor
21 January 2015	Bay Post/Moruya Examiner	Speak up now on rate rise
16 January 2015	Bay Post/Moruya Examiner	Letters to the editor
14 January 2015	Bay Post/Moruya Examiner	Thousands sign rate rise petition
14 January 2015	Bay Post/Moruya Examiner	Letters to the editor
14 January 2015	Narooma News	Letters to the editor
9 January 2015	Bay Post/Moruya Examiner	Letters to the editor
7 January 2015	Bay Post/Moruya Examiner	From the editor's desk Letters to the editor

IT was shocking to hear that someone would be brazen and selfish enough to allegedly net fish Mummaga Lake.

Come on – surely he realised that someone would see him and report him.

Anyone using a net is after commercial quantities of fish and more than just a feed, which is doubly wrong.

For those of us who practice catch and release fishing, this kind of thing is heart-breaking.

Equally shocking was to hear of ongoing abuse of seals, both on the breakwater and also the poor unfortunate seal on Forsters Bay which appears to have been deliberately speared.

When it comes to animal cruelty there should be no leniency and the full force of the law should be brought against anyone caught harming our wildlife.

The seals are a great tourism draw card and were here first – we should learn to live with them and if they take the odd fish, so what – we are smart enough and have enough time to get another.

It's not life and death like it is for wildlife.

Finally, hope to see everyone on Australia Day on Narooma Surf Beach for breakfast!

Wallaga Bridge fishing

In response to Harry Baie's letter in last week's *Narooma News*, I can certainly shed some light on this matter.

I am an 81-year-old disabled pensioner and I've been fishing off the bridge at Wallaga Lake for the past 24 years.

During that time I was never told not to fish from the bridge by RTA, Fisheries, Council or Police until I was booked on Christmas Eve and again on New Year's Eve 2013 for "Fish from bridge in contravention of notice" (\$165.00) and "Stay on road longer than is necessary to cross" (\$67.00).

According to police records, I was the first person to be charged with this offence since the bridge opened in 1894.

Over my 24 years fishing from the bridge, both Fisheries and NSW Police officers regularly stopped and had a conversation with me before wishing me luck.

I chose to go to court to publically air my disgust at being booked for these offences so that others could be warned of this apparent change in policy. The magistrate reduced my fines to \$10.00 on each count.

I believe that overzealous action by one police officer brought about this change in policing policy.

Hans Schrooten
Narooma

Can't have it both ways!

One cannot help but sympathise with councillor Leslight (article *Monaya Examiner* Wednesday, January 14).

It is so frustrating when council consults the community and then ignores their input.

Councillor Leslight says that ratepayers must be listened to, but "councillors feel that they know what is best and they just aren't listening".

In light of these statements, Councillor Leslight should think back to November 25, 2014, when he, together with councillors Burnside, Schwarz, Innes and Pollock ignored the 81 per cent of ratepayer submissions opposing the Huntfest amendments to include the sale of guns etc.

Instead, these councillors chose to consider supportive submissions from non-ratepayers that resulted from an online campaign by hunters. But the online petition containing 40,000 signatures opposing the amendments was ignored.

Councillor Leslight is absolutely correct when he says, "The community is finding there is no point in arguing or raising issues with our council because they aren't listened to."

I'm sure there's an old saying applicable to Cllr Leslight's statements - something about "practise" and "preach" I think!

Patricia Gardiner
Deua River Valley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the *Narooma News* must be signed with the full name and address of the writer and a phone number if possible. Preference will be given to letters that meet a 300 word limit. The *Narooma News* reserves the right to edit letters. Send your letters to:

"The Editor", *Narooma News*,
PO Box 443 Narooma NSW 2546 or email:
stan.gorton@fairfaxmedia.com.au

Princes Highway a death trap indeed

Just before Christmas, my wife and I were at our Brogo farm listening to NRMA Director for the South Coast NSW & ACT, Mr Alan Evans, describe the Princes Highway on the far South Coast as a death trap. We strongly agree with what he had to say.

Whilst we currently live in Queanbeyan, every two weeks we travel to our Brogo farm along the Princes Highway either south via Batemans Bay or north via Bega.

Either way, we have found the Princes Highway to be woeful in terms of surface maintenance, safe overtaking lanes, narrow and outdated bridges with poor access, and a lack of rest stops with toilets.

The state of this road is shameful given that it is the major National highway along the East Coast linking Australia's two largest cities, Melbourne and Sydney.

Over the last 10 years, we have noticed a dramatic increase in the number of trucks and caravans travelling this road, yet there are very few safe overtaking lanes and

rest stops with toilets along the way. We have also noted far more accidents and deaths, many of which appear to be near narrow bridge entrances.

It is not just the Princes Highway which needs improving as just a couple of years ago, Brown Mountain was closed for almost two months due to a major landslide.

During that same period, Clyde Mountain was periodically closed over a number of weeks for significant maintenance works. Both highways have had numerous partial closures since.

All these major South Coast highways urgently need funds to make them safer.

The Federal and NSW State Governments often cry poor and emphasise how "much" they have spent on small sections of the Princes Highway on the South Coast but it is a pittance of what is spent elsewhere and what is needed.

They cry poor when South East locals seek basic safety improve-

ments, particularly to black spots and the bridges which we understand have exceeded their original use by date.

What makes us angry is that the NSW and Federal Governments seem to find significant funds to spend on optional local roads which are not of National/core importance.

An outrageous example in our electorate is the proposed Queanbeyan CBD by-pass (Ellerton Drive Extension/Edwin Land Parkway).

This route is unpopular with a significant number of residents as it will take heavy vehicles out of the main street of Queanbeyan (the Kings/Monaro Highway) and divert them either through or along the back fences of many of Queanbeyan's residential areas.

Regardless of the merits of that proposed road, we found it remarkable that in June last year, John Barilaro MP (NSW Member for Monaro) and Peter Hendy MP (Federal Member for Eden-

Monaro) pledged \$50 million (S25 million state and S25 federal) towards the road.

At the time, this was spunked as covering the cost of the road which has since increased to \$75 million.

Prior to the State and Federal Governments' funding pledge at taxpayers' expense, developers were to fund around 75 per cent of the road.

If \$50 million is so readily available in such circumstances, significantly more should be available to improve our "national" highways in the same electorate.

If such money cannot be found, our local members should redirect their \$25 million pledges to the South Coast and let the developers pay for the local road in Queanbeyan which will allow them to expand their developments. If your readers agree, we urge them to contact their local members and ask them why Queanbeyan and not the South Coast?

Peter Kontis
Brogo/Queanbeyan

Politicians lacking a sense of reality

Not much sense for reality from our politicians before an election.

I believe that most of the voters should have learned that there has to be a reality factor when a party is getting into power, a sense of what they really can do.

Having a plan is not good enough. We rather have a party in power, doing an acceptable job.

In case they are already in power, then why did they not do those things then?

For instance in Queensland, Campbell Newman had time enough to leave a good impression, did he? No, he did not, he took lots of jobs away in the service sector and wants to give them back now.

It is a cruel way of power abuse, they openly put on display that money is more important to them than the voters.

Running a country takes cleverness, creating a sense of stability, this was not what they got of him.

He was putting a lot of people into a spin over there and he has little substance.

The Federal Liberals were oblivious to reality, when they were in opposition.

Labor was unable to keep promises, which they should not have made.

We had a hung parliament. If that would have been understood, maybe the difficulties the Liberals are having now would be less.

In opposition one has to wait until one is getting the steering wheel, this was missing.

I hope they can make us see soon that

politicians are there to work for us, not for themselves.

That's what we taxpayers are paying them for.

At the moment they are insulting our intelligence, we know that money to them is power.

Could it be news for them that it is for us too?

Our standard of living is going backwards.

We want them to lead us into a safer future.

This is missing, this government is looking rather aggressive.

What is in it for us? I feel that it will wear us out having one war after another.

Those wars are usually very costly. Australians developed a good looking electric car by Holden (General Motors), a technology again going overseas, why?

Ignoring climate change now will also haunt the Liberals sooner than later.

Restoring infrastructure after disasters again and again makes planning impossible.

The fires, heavy downpours, heat waves, storms and so on are impacting on the public as much as it is on the government's economics.

We want to live with reality and clever management "not with promises". Don't forget we the voters will be the judge and jury.

K. Kruger
Central Tiba

It's a good system in the ESC

We vote in councillors to represent us. Council employs staff to serve us. They deliver us policies that most don't want, like a 25 per cent rate rise!

In 2011 ESC proposed a special rate variation.

Despite spending tens of thousands of dollars to support their case their survey found "very few are prepared to accept a rate increase of greater than 7 per cent (Micromex).

Thousands more were spent taking their cast to IPART who knocked back their application for failure to show ratepayer support for the rise.

Move on to 2014 and try again. This time they try every trick in the book and throw enormous resources toward getting their way. Consultants are hired to get a yes vote and used all their guile to confuse voters by clouding the issues with red herrings.

Council's propaganda team bombarded ratepayers with numerous press releases and flyers high-

lighting council achievements.

New steps, paths and mulchy areas appeared everywhere whether needed or not.

Consultation began where council heavies pushed the case for a rate increase at poorly advertised meetings.

The mail out brochure failed to clearly state that the rate rise was actually 26 per cent after three years.

The Micromex survey found, after trying their best to promote a year vote, that two out of three ratepayers don't want a special rate variation.

Thousands of ratepayers signed petitions and yet council decided to pour more money into proceeding with their rate rise to IPART.

The process was cunningly held over the Christmas holiday period hoping it would slip through unnoticed.

During this period council announces a 3.5 million operating surplus for

2013/14.

Since their push for a rate rise they have been spending like drunken sailors. New tilt tray trucks – hundreds of thousands of dollars to be used a few hours a week.

Also putting out of business ratepayers who had been providing that service. Thousands of dollars wasted ruining Carters Headland without any consultation with ratepayers. A treated pine stairway was all that was needed.

If we have a surplus and money to waste why are we looking at rate rise?

Councillor Milton Leslight is to be congratulated on his tireless efforts to represent rate payers when our Narooma councillors do nothing.

January 23 is the cut off for submissions to council. Please act immediately and let council know once more that ratepayers oppose this special rate variation. Even though they won't listen!

B. Rappkins
Kianga

Council not profit-making venture

I am thoroughly disgusted with the apparent contempt the Eurobodalla Council has for the ratepayers.

It was reported in the *Narooma News* that the council budgeted for an \$800,000 deficit but ended up with a \$3.5 million surplus.

Who is responsible for this incredible anomaly? Who is the accountant, the treasurer, the financial controller that they have no idea on the funds available to the council.

But regardless of their inability to assess and budget, they insist we need a 26 per cent compounding increase on our land rates. Land rates that are already exorbitantly high, given in Sydney the Blacktown Council rates are more than \$500 a year less than Eurobodalla's so called pensioner subsidised rates.

And ratepayers in Blacktown Council are entitled to 12 hard rubbish collections per year and when they would like to have rubbish removed, as against one only for Eurobodalla rate payers and only at a time specified by council.

These proposed increased rates are going to force pensioners out of this Shire. We cannot afford increase after increase, on top of the Federal Government's changes to pensions and Medicare.

How incompetent is this mob running the Eurobodalla Shire Council, they seem to have no idea how much money they have, let alone how much they need. And I suppose they all decided they deserved a bonus for making a profit.

The council is not a profit making machine, it is supposed to be providing services for the ratepayers, not as will happen to us if we can't find the money for rates, forced out of our homes.

And the water rates, why do we pay \$3.40 per kilolitre and Sydney Water charges \$2.2330 per kilolitre.

Bey Benley
Narooma

Changes to Medicare

As doctors in the local area, we believe that the community we serve should be advised of the effects that may arise from any Commonwealth Government changes to Medicare.

Medicare has been with us for 41 years and has provided the basis for universal access to health care.

From January 19, 2015 the present government had by regulation intended to start the disassembling of Medicare.

General Practice in providing a service to the community needs to be supported by a viable business model, which can be conducted on the basis of various billing types.

In Narooma practices we have examples of the various billing methods.

Under the proposed changes from January 19 the introduction of new regulations would force changes to all models of practice. Some of these changes would have resulted in financial stress on patients.

We as local doctors suggest that the people to whom we provide services, contact their local Federal Member and voice their opposition to dismemberment of Medicare or changes without consultation.

Subsequent to advice that the ill-conceived regulation changes will not proceed is good news for general practice.

There is no doubt that the cost of Medicare does need to be considered and excessive service minimised. Changes should be made in consultation with active providers and the people they serve.

Dr Ken Doust and
Dr John Brown, Narooma

MORE LETTERS ON PAGE 34

From the Editor's desk

WE are lucky to have the Eurobodalla District Show at a time when other agricultural societies across the country have failed.

Skyrocketing public liability insurance, volunteer fatigue and a shift in focus away from the agricultural industry in Australia, where it once ruled supreme, make it increasingly difficult for grassroots show organisation.

But where others have died, the Eurobodalla District Show Society has triumphed.

According to the Australian Council of Agricultural Societies, there are more than 600 agricultural show societies across Australia which together comprise the longest continuously operating institution in the country.

The first was established for the protection of animals in Hobart Town in Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) in 1821.

Together they showcase the industry's finest, serving as an influential force through competition, education and events.

Some ten million people - almost half of the Australian population - attend an agricultural show each year.

The Eurobodalla show is widely anticipated and shines a spotlight on our diverse community and its many talented residents.

While focus has broadened from its agricultural foundations, the show manages to stay true to its roots with cattle, alpaca and poultry judging as well as farm produce and pavilion favourites such as art and craft.

Changing competition categories also update the show to the times.

The 2015 Eurobodalla District Show program includes home brew, hor glass, oyster, wine, writing and even video and mixed media categories, to name a few.

Prize money may be small, but it does not matter much.

It is the honour of being recognised for your efforts, seeing what others have produced, learning from your peers, and, most importantly, being an active part of your community, that matter most.

Local people hold local shows for local folk. Head along this weekend and support your hard-working show society - you will not be disappointed.

VOX POP: Are you going to the Eurobodalla District Show this weekend?



Shirley Alchin
CATALINA
"No. We are going to the Australia Day celebrations at Corrigans Beach."



Clive Alchin
CATALINA
"I go where Shirley goes. I haven't been to the show for about 15 years."



Vicki Robertson
MORUYA
"Yes. I'm helping friends with horses in the equestrian ring on both days."



Kade Mavroudis-McFarlane
WAGGA WAGGA
"No. I'm going back to Wagga this weekend."



Jasmine Ryan
MALONEYS BEACH
"No. I'll be face-painting at a kids' party at Corrigans."

Speak up

HAVE your say now on Eurobodalla Shire Council's proposed special rate variation.

Ratepayers and residents have another chance to become familiar with the cases for and against the SRV and to lodge a submission to council in writing by mail, personal delivery or email by the close off date Friday, January 23.

The Turoos Head Progress Association's executive, contrary to possibly politically motivated rumours, maintains that the association has been and will remain neutral on the SRV, in the belief that it is a matter for individual ratepayers and residents to decide in line with their own views and financial positions.

The executive did facilitate a drop-in session in Turoos Head in late November to permit face-to-face discussion with the "top brass" and it was well attended.

The council, the mayor, three councillors, the general manager, the director of infrastructure services and the director of finance and business development were there and, thanks to this opportunity, many residents went away better informed, if not convinced.

The important thing now, if you care, is to make a submission.

Remember that if there is a vast "silent" majority, council may tend to consider this to be a sign of approval.

Gary Cooper
Turoos Head Progress Association

Call supported

IN response to the article headed "Telstra site disgraceful" in last week's Bay Post, I must confirm my total agreement and support.

My husband and I own the bordering property to

this site and in 2010 we lodged a grievance with Telstra regarding the disgraceful state of both the site and plant.

The original grievance was lodged in April 2010 and despite many phone calls and being given the total run around, nothing was done until in September 2010 falling debris from one of the trees caused considerable damage to our home.

Telstra paid for repairs and removed suspect trees from the block but never made good on our other grievances which are identical to those raised by Mr McGee.

Currently, Telstra Box 1 has plants growing in its roof (as it did in 2010) and there is also a gaping hole.

The general condition of the block does not allow for mowing and sprays have been used to control weeds.

Overspray has drifted onto our block resulting in areas of front lawn dying permanently.

Come on Telstra, maintain this property and consider your neighbours.

Kerry Underwood
Malua Bay

In a shabby state

IF case others overlook the significance of his words, Russell Schnieder's letter (All in the planning, Bay Post, January 14) should be emphasised in large print:

"Eurobodalla Shire Council's attempt to hike rates by 26 per cent over three years results from a self-inflicted wound caused by council and its advisers ... Its restrictive policies ... have gutted the shire's rateable base ... Between 2011 and 2014 rateable values in the shire dropped by 5.3 per cent ... Those in neighbouring shires which had developed far less alarmist policies rose by between 4.3 and 7.9 per cent."

Residents must identify the problem in council's administration before

throwing more money at it.

Council keeps hidden what its own staff have tried to tell us for years through Insync Staff Surveys that they are among the most poorly managed in a very shabby state.

Council's own consultants confirmed the negative culture and poor internal communications, consistent with the absence of motivational goals and leadership skills.

Despite the statutory requirement for senior staff in local government to be employed on a contract basis, with renewal subject to demonstrating high levels of performance, ESC's "managerial" staff remain unresponsive in jobs that are, evidently, too big for them.

Local government is a very expensive and cumbersome additional layer of bureaucracy in our heavily over-governed nation.

If it does not listen and assist residents to determine how local affairs are administered, what do we vote and pay for?

Don Burns
Turoos Head

Who is ruling who?

CHARLES De Gaulle is credited with the following quote: "In order to become the master, the politician poses as the servant."

Indeed it seems so that the Moruya Mandarins have evolved from the role of servants of the people (ratepayers) to that of their masters.

So many recent topics on the administration's desk have incurred the ire of beleaguered ratepayers; sea-level, LEP, the traffic light issue, rate increase, failed developments and other issues.

Despite significant complaint from the community, in addition to surveys and petitions railing against these "initiatives", the vectoring from Vulcan Street continues unabated.

It is clear the "Men who would be Kings", have lost the ability to serve the community in the manner for which they were employed.

Perhaps it is time for our state representative to initiate an amalgamation of ESC with Bega and Shoalhaven councils using the Moruya River as a

boundary for the division.

It is not clear whether we would be better off but the synergies gained would perhaps mitigate any rate rise. Indeed, could it be any worse?

Similarly with our elected councillors, with only one, (Cr Light) seemingly able to focus on the will of the community, the function of this august body is questionable and an extraordinary, early election would hopefully restore the role of elected councillors to be representatives of the community and become an

effective interface with the administration.

I believe the article entitled "Developer abandons project" (Bay Post, January 7) sums up the situation quite succinctly.

People's feelings about developers will vary but the same disregard for others in the community is a constant that needs to be addressed before all of the Bay's businesses follow the ever disappearing car parking spaces.

Mike Holland
Long Beach

BACKWARD GLANCE

Front page news five years ago



Bay Post

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Speak up now on rate rise

By EMILY BARTON

Jan. 21, 2015, 5 a.m.



NO POSITION: The Tuross Head Progress Association will not take a position on council's proposed special rate variation, despite the view of individual members. Pictured is vice-presidents Jeff de Jager and Maureen Baker and president Gary Cooper.

TUROSS Head Progress Association is remaining neutral on Eurobodalla Shire Council's proposed special rate variation (SRV), despite individual views within the group.

President Gary Cooper said it was a decision that was to be made by the individual, without influence and encouraged community members to have their say.

"We have tried to make sure the community has as much information as possible," he said.

"It isn't right for us to take a stand as an association because we can't speak for the whole community."

Although council's listed priority projects to be funded by the SRV in Tuross are not high on the agenda for the association, its priority projects will be funded by the sale of the old progress hall.

Mr Cooper said the main priority was the completion of Nelson Parade boardwalk.

Vice-president Jeff de Jager said residents were sceptical their money would be spent on infrastructure projects for the community.

"If we are going to pay for an SRV we want to see priority projects go ahead in Tuross," he said.

"Nobody wants to pay any more unless they are going to see value for their money."

Mr de Jager said the views across the community were going to be different, depending on people's circumstances.

"Some have mortgages, some are retired and some don't pay rates at all," he said.

"The community should become as familiar as they can be with advantages and disadvantages of an SRV and then make a decision. "

Vice-president Maureen Baker said council needed to be transparent with their cost savings and were they had made cuts.

She encouraged people to make a submission to council on the SRV.

"The silent majority, who don't put in a submission, may still be the bigger number of people," she said.

"Council will say 'if they didn't want it why didn't they put in a submission in'.

"If only 10 object they assume the other 36,000 must be for it."

Submissions close Friday, January 23.

From the Editor's desk

FEDERAL Health Minister Sussan Ley's announcement yesterday to dump plans to cut Medicare rebates paid to doctors was welcomed around Australia.

It was yet another example of the Coalition government being forced to abandon widely unpopular legislation.

In December, it scrapped plans to charge patients a \$7 co-payment, in August it was forced to step away from Senator George Brandis's draft legislation to change section 18C of the Racial Discrimination Act, and more recently the Senate tossed out changes that would give consumers less protection from unscrupulous financial planners.

Not only is much of this proposed legislation poorly thought out, in some cases it also bears elements of spitefulness against the population.

In the case of yesterday's scrapped plan, which was due to commence on January 19, by taking away the rebate for doctors the government was forcing them to cop the wrath of patients who thus would have had to make up the shortfall.

The government's failure to realise that general practices are really small businesses is a huge and basic flaw in its understanding of primary health care, one so serious that it could have compromised the health of all but the wealthy in Australia.

Many of the shire's doctors were united in their opposition to the changes to Medicare rebates for two main reasons.

To them, the cut to the rebate for short consultations denoted the government's ignorance of how GPs maintain a good balance between short and long visits, and of how a "six-minute" consultation is not inferior to a longer one.

For those of them who decided to delay lifting their fees until the Senate made a decision next month, the wait is over.

The government must learn to draft legislation that will have not only financial benefits but also not be seen as an attack or insult to its citizens.

Ms Ley might just have saved Medicare from becoming terminally ill.

Though she said she still intended to introduce the \$5 cut to GP payments on July 1, she said she was prepared to listen.

We can only hope that if the government continues its attempts to meddle with Medicare, it will make an appointment and consult with the experts, our GPs, who will help it to come up with a more efficacious method of treatment to keep Medicare in tip-top health.

How many more bitter pills are we prepared to swallow?

- Jocelyn Righton

> VOX POP: Do you volunteer? Why/why not?



KAY FRANCIS BROULEE
"I volunteer at the sports club. I do it to help out where I can."



TED FRANCIS BROULEE
"Yes, I enjoy helping people whenever I can."



LEONE REEVES HEATHCOTE
"Not now but I used to volunteer at netball as an umpire."



ALBERT REEVES HEATHCOTE
"Not anymore, I'm too old. I have in the past."



JARRAH GOUGH SYDNEY
"Yes, I am joining my local surf club to do patrols and become a part of the community."

Conservation ideals crippling shire

I TAKE my hat off to Russell Schneider and his condemnation of the Eurobodalla council's possible implementation of an unrealistic rate increase over the next three years (Bay Post, letters, January 14).

The council is a victim of its own stupidity with the green and conservation-guided ideas that have crippled those wishing to settle and build in the shire.

There is little encouragement to accommodate the increase in the number of rated properties, which would increase the council's sources of revenue.

Certain council members are too obsessed with pushing their own agendas with little or no consideration as to where the future dollars are coming from.

Where is the strategic planning? In reality it is just a joke.

Sound business people with forward-thinking ideas look to ways of increasing

the revenue stream by generating sales and need.

Councils can, with a sensible approach, encourage people who wish live and build here by revisiting building regulations and the damaging restrictions surrounding sea-level rise.

Since 1984 or 85 I have seen the goal posts with development applications change three times and no predicted rises have been experienced.

Councillor Milton Leslight is leading the way and should be commended for his stand against stupid unaffordable rate increases to offset bad management and past investment follies.

Nev Aourousseau Tomakin

State of things

THE Bay Post/Moruya Examiner is still receiving and publishing letters and posts on the blogs about climate change and the associated sea-level rise matters fairly regularly.

Some of the allegations and claimed impacts on the local economy in relation to property prices would be almost impossible to prove in a court, in my view.

However, if there are people in the shire who believe property valuations have reduced because of the sea-level rise discussion that went on before the council resolved on a policy they should take it up with the state government which is advised by the Independent Panel for Climate Change.

It's the state government which makes the rules we in NSW have to abide by, like it or not.

Politicians and bureaucracy are covering their backsides with it.

Allan Brown Batemans Bay

Princes Highway 'woeful'

JUST before Christmas, my wife and I were at our Brogo farm listening to Alan Evans from the NRMA describe the

Princes Highway on the Far South Coast as a death trap. We strongly agree.

While we live in Queanbeyan, every two weeks we travel to Brogo along the Highway either south via Batemans Bay or north via Bega. Either way, we have found it to be woeful in terms of surface maintenance, safe overtaking lanes, narrow and outdated bridges with poor access, and a lack of rest stops with toilets.

The state of this road is shameful given that it is the major national highway along the east coast.

Over the past 10 years, we have noticed a dramatic increase (trucks and caravans travelling this road, yet there are few safe overtaking lanes and rest stops with toilets along the way).

We have also noted far more accidents and deaths.

It is not just the Princes Highway which needs improving; in recent years Brown Mountain was closed for almost two months by a major landslide and the Clyde Mountain was periodically closed for significant maintenance works.

These major South Coast highways urgently need funds to make them safer.

The federal and state governments often cry poor and emphasise how "much" they have spent on small sections of the Princes Highway on the South Coast but it is a pittance of what is spent elsewhere and what is needed.

What makes us angry is that they seem to find funds to spend on optional local roads which are not of national/core importance. An outrageous example in our electorate is the proposed Queanbeyan CBD bypass (Ellerton Drive Extension/Edwin Land Parkway).

Prior to the state and federal governments' funding pledge at taxpayers' expense, developers were to fund around 75 per cent of the road. If such money cannot be found, our local members should redirect their \$25 million pledges to the South Coast and let the developers pay for the local road in Queanbeyan which will allow them to expand their developments.

If your readers agree, we urge them to contact their local members and ask them why Queanbeyan and not the South Coast?

Peter Horris Brogo/Queanbeyan

Thanks

I WISH to sincerely thank the two young women and the gentleman who helped me when I had a fall near the Batemans Bay Soldiers Club on Wednesday, January 7. Thank you very much.

Elizabeth Salisbury Edgewood Park

Big business reigns

I RECENTLY read the mayor's Christmas column reflecting on council's accomplishments for the two years of his reign.

And it's true, getting a Bunnings mega store was just what our shire has been lacking and then I thought, "hang on, don't we already have a Bunnings store in Batemans Bay?" and it turns out we did.

Still, what's better than a Bunnings store unless it's two Bunnings stores almost opposite each other.

I will admit that the new one is in a much more open

and easy to spot position on the highway and that is important for big corporate concerns, they like to be seen, it helps them dominate smaller, local businesses.

I was just thinking this when I looked up just as we were approaching the new Caltex Gateway to the Eurobodalla. What a marvellous edifice it is too. So big and gaudy, it just fits into the environment so beautifully.

And what a location! Caltex must have thought they'd died and gone to heaven. It dominates the

approach to both the Eurobodalla and Shoalhaven shires, catching all those wonderful money spending tourists as they arrive and leave. What a perfectly situated petrol station and how happy must Caltex be.

And we needed a 24-hour service station in the Bay. But wait a minute, don't we already have a 24 hour Caltex service station in the Bay?

Well, indeed we do, and now we have another. You just can't have too much of a good thing.

I read that the pin has been pulled on the retirement village in Moruya with the developer saying that council was "too difficult to deal with".

The truth is that the developer doesn't know how to treat the council.

They should take lessons from Bunnings and Caltex to learn how to sweeten deals so that you can not only build stuff that's already there, but build it in a better, more dominant position.

Michael Johnson Tuross Head

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Thousands sign rate rise petition

By EMILY BARTON

Jan. 14, 2015, 7 a.m.



NO RISE: Councillor Milton Leslight has collected thousands of signatures from people who oppose Eurobodalla Shire Council's special rate rise. [News](#) [Business](#)

A PETITION against Eurobodalla Shire Council's proposed rate rise has attracted more than 6000 signatures so far.

Councillor Milton Leslight, who has been vocal in his opposition to the rate rise since it was first presented to council, distributed the petition with the help of friends.

He said ratepayers must be listened to.

"I wanted people to be able to have an opinion," he said.

"The people are entitled to have the chance to speak."

Cr Leslight believes the community would not be able to afford the compounded 26 per cent rate increase, which would begin in the 2015-16 year if approved by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal.

"It compounds, it isn't just for a short term," he said.

"I don't know any community that could afford this.

"The community is battling to pay petrol, phone bills and other costs as it is."

He said that although council needed to make good business decisions, it also needed to live within its means.

"I don't believe it is too late to pull the pin on it," Cr Leslight said.

"They (councillors) have a chance to review their decision.

"It is just another economic burden."

Cr Leslight said the community had already said "no" in council's community consultation, which included random phone surveys, but their voices were not being heard.

"The councillors feel that they know what is best and they just aren't listening," he said.

"It's like the traffic lights on Perry Street, the people said 'no' and they are still going ahead.

"The community is finding there is no point in arguing or raising issues with our council because they aren't listened to."

Cr Leslight said there were signatures on the petition from "every suburb in the shire".

"There are more petitions jammed under my door every morning," he said.

"Most signatures are from people in the Eurobodalla.

"A lot of ACT people have signed it as well because they own holiday properties down here."

The petition will be tabled at Eurobodalla Shire Council's February 10 meeting and sent to IPART.

"I would encourage the community to write submissions to both council and IPART about the rate rise," Cr Leslight said.

Submissions close on January 23.

The petition can be found in shops in Batemans Bay, Moruya and Narooma.

Cr Leslight urged anyone who could help with distribution or collection of the petitions to contact him on 4472 4777.

From the Editor's desk

THERE must be something in the water. What wonderful talent we grow here in the Eurobodalla.

It was announced yesterday that Batemans Bay's own Brandon McClelland has been nominated for the best new talent in the TV Week Logie Awards for his role as Pat Dooley in ABC mini series *Anzac Girls*.

The Batemans Bay High School HSC graduate and Eurobodalla Dream and Achieve 2010 scholarship recipient got his big break in 2009 when he was accepted to the National Institute of Dramatic Arts (NIDA).

He was also a popular character in the series *Love Child* as Robert Barstov.

Broulee's Abby Earl, who rose to fame as Anna Bligh in Channel Seven's drama *A Place to Call Home*, is also up for a Logie - most popular actress.

Ms Earl was nominated for most popular new talent at last year's Logie Awards.

Then there is the stars of the stage. The talented Kirby Burgess is working hard at Sydney's Lyric Theatre as Frances' Baby Houseman in the stage production of *Dirty Dancing*, and a fine job she is doing too.

The Bay Theatre Players, where a younger Kirby first took the stage, has also been nominated for no less than eight Canberra Area Theatre Awards for its hit production of *Annie*.

Annie director Candy Burgess is nominated for best director of a musical or variety show and the show itself was nominated for best production of a musical.

Matt Burgess is up for best set designer for a musical and also best actor in a leading role.

Sam Lloyd was nominated for best costume designer for a musical or variety show; Jay Post as best actor in a featured role in a musical; Narrell Murdoch as best actress in a featured role in a musical; and Meg McCallum as best youth actress in a leading role in a musical in the title role of *Annie*.

The nominations are proof that more young stars are rising through the ranks, set on the path to success.

Quick, pass me a glass of Bay water, please.

VOX POP: Given recent events, would you feel safe flying overseas?



Bob Bonning,
SUNSHINE BAY
"I suppose I would if I really wanted to go somewhere."



Julie Richards
BATEMANS BAY
"No, only to New Zealand."



Cyril Land
WODONGA
"Yes, I would."



Lea Land
WODONGA
"Yes, totally."



Kerryl Davis
TOMAKIN
"Yes, I'm going in June. If your time is up, it's up. I feel safe."

All in the planning

EUROBODALLA Shire Council's attempt to hike rates by 26 per cent over three years results from a self-inflicted wound caused by council and its advisers.

Its restrictive policies, particularly but not exclusively those related to sea-level rise, have gutted the shire's rateable base.

Between 2011 and 2014 rateable values in the shire dropped by 5.3 per cent.

Those in neighbouring shires which had developed far less alarmist policies rose by between 4.3 and 7.9 per cent.

In some cases households have lost more than 50 per cent of their property value.

This is a tragedy for people who invested, planning to sell their property before moving to a retirement home but it is also a tragedy for every person whether they pay rates or not.

It's been estimated bad council decisions have reduced the value of properties by \$860 million across the shire. In other words more sensible policies would have increased the rateable base

by almost a billion dollars.

The rate increase will inevitably flow through to rents, making rental housing less affordable and restrictive policies will make housing development less attractive, reducing the available housing stock.

Businesses will have to increase their prices to cover rates.

The widespread repercussions of this proposal could have been avoided by a more realistic and pragmatic approach to planning issues.

In addition waste abounds, as anyone driving around the shire can see any day of the week. Adopt more sensible planning, encourage more business and development and then share in the collective increase in wealth.

Then the need for a rate rise disappears.

Russell Schneider
Broulee

The heat on Spain

WITH just one wave of his magic wand, Allan Rees paints a compelling picture of our glorious new renewable energy based

economy. All those new 24-seven solar power plants in sunny Spain sound just terrific, creating all those now green jobs.

Problem is, Spain has many solar power plants but only one theoretically capable of producing power 24-seven - it has heat storage technology - the Gemasolar plant near Seville.

In fact, in 2013 it set a record for the number of consecutive days of 24-seven power delivered - 36 days. It's a bit shy of 365 but who's counting?

Gemasolar is rated at 19.9 MW and is capable of providing power for 25,000 homes (slightly larger than Queanbeyan).

By the way, it cost US \$400,000,000 to build. So 12 of them would cost us say \$5 billion and would power 100,000 homes, roughly Newcastle.

That leaves a hell of a lot of wind turbines to make up the difference.

And how's this bright future working out for Spain?

Well, in July last year wind and solar generated 38 per cent of Spain's electricity demand but at what cost? Spain has paid 56 billion

Euros in subsidies to renewable energy projects since 1998 which amount will eventually grow to 142 billion Euros.

Spain's unemployment rate is about 24 per cent (54 per cent for under 25s).

It has a government debt of over 1000 billion Euros, about 94 per cent of GDP.

A great vision for Australia, Allan. But I guess no price is too high to keep Gaia happy.

Peter O'Brien
Catalina

Wrong priorities

ON two important issues the Baird government prioritise corporate/business interests over the public good.

First is TAFE privatisation, second is the Victims Rights and Support Act 2013.

Under 'Smart and Skilled' TAFE competes with private for profit colleges. Even though the former TAFE system was working well, public funding now goes to whoever attracts the most students, not to who provides the best courses and the best vocational outcomes.

Already private colleges are rorting the system targeting the disabled and unemployed to sign up for inappropriate and unaffordable courses.

Between Illawarra/Moruya TAFE, 14 jobs have been cut.

Moruya TAFE hospitality students are concerned about paying more for less teaching time and that public funding is going to private colleges.

TAFE is a vital social safety net for many in the Eurobodalla mature-age students enrol in the Wollongong University Batemans Bay Campus for arts, accountancy and nursing degrees, Masters of Education/Business and postgraduate study. For some students TAFE is the only pathway into a university degree.

Drastic cuts to victim compensation implemented retrospectively in 2012 by former Premier Barry O'Farrell and supported by the Baird government, were against the advice of community legal centres, victim's advocacy groups Labor and the Greens.

The new scheme undermines the intention and spirit of compensation to recognise ongoing trauma and suffering. Victims have been left distressed about the drastically reduced payouts, less support and unattainable documentation necessary for compensation.

The Baird government and former Premier claim the old scheme was unaffordable, yet before 2011 election Mr O'Farrell could find \$300 million for his donor, the Hotels Industry for poker machine tax relief.

Recently ICAC has exposed unprecedented Liberal Party/Liberal donor corruption. In this light how can the Baird government continue to prioritise corporate/business interests over the public good?

Marrion Sounon
Catalina

Let's get the record straight

I HAVE been approached by a number of distressed residents concerned that I supported the 26 per cent Special Rate Variation (SRV) being sought by council.

Let me make it very clear that I have opposed this proposal since its inception.

When our administration first raised the idea, I asked to see comparative rates information between the Eurobodalla and other NSW councils, particularly the Great Lakes Council which I understand is similar to ours.

I expressed concern that our shire consists mainly of retirees and pensioners on

fixed incomes or government assistance programs.

We have significant unemployment and high levels of homelessness.

We have too many vacant shops and empty factories along with the associated bankruptcies.

I added that many people in our community are struggling to pay high electricity bills, phone accounts and exorbitant petrol prices.

I pointed out that council has already increased water rates by 22 per cent and raised all other fees and charges that are outside of the general rate structure.

I have been quite vocal

about the devastating effect some council policies are having on the value of people's homes, and intimated that this is not the way to gain popular support for any council initiatives, let alone a rate rise.

I summarised the above and expressed the view that we as council are perceived as being far too fat and wasteful.

Unless we live within our means and take our community with us, we will never regain their trust and we will be tarred and feathered.

I concluded that until I was satisfied that steps are

being taken to correct these shortcomings, I would NOT support an SRV proposal.

It is my opinion that the questions in the Micromex survey were loaded to produce a positive response to a rate rise - still the overall majority of people said "no".

Why won't this council listen to their community?

With the support of some loyal friends I have distributed a petition that opposes the proposed rate hike.

But we need more people to speak up and defend their rights. I cannot do it alone.

Or Milton Leighton
Batemans Bay

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Our say ...

We are hearing bits and pieces about the drug ice in our community and judging by a couple of horrific incidents it may have triggered, this appears to be really a horrible drug that makes people do unspeakable things.

I guess we may have been naïve to think we could have escaped this scourge that is all over the nation, but whether it really is as big a problem as in other communities remains to be seen.

Given the supposed addictive nature of this drug, I guess any ice is a problem and hopefully steps can be taken to eliminate it as much as possible and educate everyone about its dangers.

On a much more positive note, the farewell of Sergeant Steve Mawson from the Narooma police station was an emotional event and given the dangers and unpleasantness encountered by our law enforcement officers, 43 was truly a major milestone to have reached.

The Sarge was always great to deal with and enabled us to bring you the police report each week, something that other newspapers and police commands don't always have working so well.

Good luck and happy fishing Sarge!

Finally don't forget to get the kids do our colouring-in competition on Page 27 - let's see flags of many shades and colours

Thousands sign special rate variation petition

By Emily Barton

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Submissions close on January 23.

The petition can be found in shops throughout Batemans Bay, Moruya and Narooma.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Surf rescue thanks

A big thank you to all the members of surf patrol C for the calm and collected way they handled a potential drowning incident on Sunday at Narooma Surf Beach.

A special mention must go to John 'Hasselhoff' Carruthers and Maceca 'Anderson' McCaughtrie for their excellent board and tube rescue techniques.

It was a dramatic patrol for first timers Karl Smith and Cyann Vlatkovic.

Well done all!

Pip Thorn, patrol captain Narooma

Women wanted?

Last week's (NN 7 Jan) heading "Men's Shed want women for garage sale" is certainly open to misinterpretation. If taken literally, I shudder to think of the problems inherent in arriving at an equitable pricing system that does not offend the sensibilities of the ladies concerned. Perhaps "live weight" is the only answer?

Richard Tizley Central Tilba

Cutting Dalmeny Campground

AT the direction of the Eurobodalla Shire Council, the managers of the Dalmeny campground are implementing a 25 per cent reduction in the number of camp sites available from the end of this tourist season.

Visitors who have been holidaying at the campground for up to 40 years have been refused forward bookings. Traders who rely heavily on this tourist trade were not consulted.

If the campground has operated as a 130 site facility instead of a 100 site facility for the past 20 years or so, council has illegally collected hundreds of thousands of dollars in extra revenue over that period.

Wouldn't it make more sense to invest some of that windfall profit into making the campground compliant rather than punishing the tourists (many of whom will not come back to the Eurobodalla), and the traders who are the backbone of this community.

To his credit, the mayor was quick to respond when I brought this matter to his attention. He has moved to have the operators accept forward bookings from displaced campers, and has told me that he "will be working with staff and industry regulators to facilitate an outcome that hopefully satisfies all".

I do not doubt the mayor's resolve to find the right solution to this problem, but I have strong doubts about his ability to influence a decision that has been made by the bureaucrats who appear to run this shire.

This is his chance to show us that he is in control, and the "cuddle a tourist" message in his last newsletter, was more than just words.

Ian Hitchcock Dalmeny

Wallaga Bridge fishing done for years

I was surprised to read in *Narooma News* Police Report of December 31 that "Police issued a fine to a 63 year old Earlwood man at 8.45am last Wednesday (Christmas Eve) for fishing off the Wallaga Lake Bridge". There has been a sign forbidding fishing from that bridge for all of my 69 years, and, I think, a whole lot longer. (Clearly the man was in breach of the law.

However, fishers have been fishing there with impunity despite the signs, and were three deep along the rails at times in the 1950's.

I think many of us thought this situation was peculiar, but I am unaware of its having caused a major problem for users of the bridge and the authorities seemed to turn a blind eye.

It has been a fascinating and amusing little feature of our area.

Has there been a sudden change of policy? If so, were the public forewarned? I shall be concerned if the man who was fined suffered that imposition without a prior warning.

That would seem to me to be quite unjust and unreasonable.

If there has been no change in policy, has this fine been imposed by someone unfamiliar with past practice, or simply someone a bit overzealous?

Laws should be obeyed, but if they have been ignored for generations, and contrary to past practice, are about to be policed, then a warning of policy change is surely warranted.

Can anyone shed any more light on this matter?

Harry Bate Tilba Tilba

Special Rate Variation - Have your say now!

This gives ratepayers and residents another chance to become familiar with the cases for and against the SRV and to lodge a submission to Council in writing by mail, personal delivery or email by the close of date Friday, January 23.

The Tuross Head Progress Association's executive, contrary to possibly politically motivated rumours, maintains that the Association has been and will remain neutral on the SRV, in the belief that it is a matter for individual ratepayers and residents to decide in line with their own views and financial positions.

The executive did facilitate a drop-in session in Tuross Head in late November to permit face to face discussion with the "top brass" and it was well attended.

From council, the mayor, three councillors, the general manager, the director of infrastructure services and the director of finance and business development were there and, thanks to this opportunity, many residents went away better informed...if not convinced!

The important thing now, if you care, is to make a submission. Remember that if there is a vast "silent" majority council may tend to consider this to be a sign of approval!

Gary Cooper President Tuross Head Progress Association

Take up sea level with State Government

The local newspapers are still receiving and publishing letters and posts on the blogs about climate change and the associated sea level rise matters fairly regularly.

Some of the allegations about sea level rise or predicted rises and claimed impacts on the local economy in relation to property prices would be almost impossible to prove in a court, in my view, however if there are people in the shire who believe property valuations have been reduced because of the sea level rise discussion that went on before the shire council resolved on a policy and policy direction supported by the State Government Office of Environment and Heritage as well as the relevant Minister in charge of that portfolio, they should take it up with the State Government who are advised by the IPCC, Independent Panel for Climate Change.

It's the state government who makes the rules we in New South Wales have to abide by like it or not.

Politicians and bureaucracy are covering their back sides with it.

Allan Brown Batemans Bay

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Letters to the *Narooma News* must be signed with the full name and address of the writer and a phone number if possible. Preference will be given to letters that meet a 300 word limit. The *Narooma News* reserves the right to edit letters. Send your letters to: "The Editor", *Narooma News*, PO Box 443 Narooma NSW 2546 or email: stan.gorton@fairfaxmedia.com.au

Complaints lodged against Eurobodalla councillors

By Carmen McIntosh

THERE were 13 code of conduct complaints lodged against councillors in the 2013-14 financial year, according to Eurobodalla Shire Council's 2013-14 annual report.

Councillors are bound by a code of conduct, which sets a standard for ethical behaviour and decision making.

Of the 13 complaints lodged in 2013-14, nine were referred to a code of conduct reviewer.

Eight had no action and one resolved "alternative and appropriate strategies".

Code of conduct complaints cost council \$11,398 in 2013-14.

There were 15 code of complaints lodged in 2012-13, three in 2011-12, and four in 2010-11. Anyone can lodge a complaint.

When asked by the Bay Post/Moruya Examiner, a council spokeswoman said that statistics on vexatious complaints were not reported.

She could not provide figures on how many complaints had been lodged in the 2014-15 financial year, and said these figures would be reported in the year's annual report.

She said under council procedures, information about code of conduct complaints was treated as confidential and not to be publicly disclosed "except as may be otherwise specifically required or permitted under these procedures".

It comes after council made public that a complaint had been lodged against councillor Milton Leslight in July after his comments about council's planning departments staff.

Cr Leslight was required to apologise for the statements he made at either the December or February meetings of council.

Should he choose not to do so, the spokeswoman said Cr Leslight risked another breach against his name.

"Councillors must comply with council resolutions requiring them to take action as a result of a breach of the code of conduct," she said.

"A failure to comply with these obligations will constitute a fresh breach of the code of conduct and will be dealt with by the Office of Local Government under the misconduct provisions of the Local Government Act 1993.

"The Act provides for a range of penalties that may be imposed on councillors for misconduct."

She said it was "not unusual" that Cr Leslight's code of conduct complaint was made public.

"Code of conduct complaints are dealt with confidentially. However, under the (Office of Local Government) Procedures, where a conduct reviewer determines that a councillor has breached the code and council recommends sanctions are imposed, this may be made public via a report to a council meeting," she said.

"It is understood that this is not unusual in regards to conduct reviewer's recommendations where a public apology is required."

From the Editor's desk

EVERY week we feature a long list of names and times from the Broulee Runners. I'll be honest - I rarely gave it that much attention. That was until I saw a list of 61 names taking part in the group last week, and I was inspired to go along. What I saw warmed my heart.

The group might have sparked out of a form of self interest for Mike Kennedy, during his training for a marathon in 2007, but now he and wife Robyn generously give up their time to help motivate others to achieve their goals and facilitate what is a fantastic community group.

They must surely have put in countless hours behind the scenes recording data from the hundreds of runners who have participated over the past eight years, their personal bests and numbers of runs, and printing it out and posting it to a board for all to see.

The runners were keen to measure their results and it was clear it gave them motivation to improve.

The runners average 40 on their Wednesday runs, and participants range from mothers walking with babies to elite athletes, and everything in between. The smiles and determination on the faces of the young children who participated - some as young as four years old - spoke for itself.

Broulee Runners encourages them to be active in an environment in which their parents can participate too - and they do. They can race against themselves or their family in a friendly environment, as well as meet their neighbours and new friends.

We feature so many stories in the *Bay Post/Moruya Examiner*, but it is not until you experience events for yourself and meet the people behind the names that you sit up and take notice.

Or in this case, stand up and lace up.

VOX POP: What do you think of petrol prices in the Bay?



Joan Wheelhouse
BATEHAVEN
"I think they're getting more realistic now."



Lisa Stewart
ROYALLA
"I can't see why it's different to Sydney. In some places, it's as low as a dollar a litre."



Richard Catalina
MOAMA
"They've just come down, so that's good. Two weeks ago we were paying \$1.58 a litre."



Ian Rodenhaus
BATHURST
"I'm actually about to fill up. It seems a bit expensive. Petrol prices are down. Why is it more expensive here?"



Trudy Vine
BURRILL LAKE
"They're dearer here than Ulladulla. Pretty bad for the coast! Batemans Bay was about the last place to bring it [prices] down."

Ignoring the obvious

BY now, most Eurobodalla Shire residents would have been notified by mail of council's intention to seek from the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal a rate rise of 26 per cent over three years, even though councillors and executive staff know there is no general community support for the proposal.

They are aware also of the socio-economic situation in the shire, but they seem hell bent on extracting more from the community that employs them.

They are aware, too, that significant savings must be made before they force an increase in the cost of living in the shire.

Alan Brown
Batemans Bay

Not a good sign

IT is noted that Club Catalina has removed the "Catalina" signage from the Batemans

Bay Bowling Club building.

It would appear that they are trying to dissociate themselves from this social and economic blight.

It is rumoured that up to \$2 million has been offered for the site.

After two years the site is derelict and Club Catalina continues to pay rates, insurance, security, and occasional lawn-mowing and other holding costs.

With limited development opportunities under Recreational Zoning, you would assume management would have accepted the \$2 million, which would have saved about \$140,000 a year in interest, and ongoing holding costs.

Instead, they seem hell bent on using the demise of the Bowling Club to get out of debt.

Batemans Bay is, possibly, the only town in Australia with a population more than 17,000 without a bowling club.

I doubt that we will see much progression of Club Catalina in the future when

only 10 per cent of the membership is eligible to stand for the board of management.

Don Cooper
Long Beach

Blind faith

MY letter (*Bay Post*, December 16) describes council's coastal management and sea-level policy as flawed because it reflects only the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's computer-projected global sea-level rise speculations and ignores local tide gauge measurements.

On this false basis, council is imposing large and unnecessary costs on ratepayers, which constitutes a significant breach of trust.

Council has failed to heed the warnings presented in submissions by highly qualified scientists, especially the report by R M Carter and 10 international co-authors, who stated: "Given the widespread criticism of IPCC's reports and analyses, great caution needs to be applied

in basing public policy on IPCC recommendations in the fashion urged by the Whitehead & Associates report".

Council's blind faith in IPCC's virtual reality world is handicapping the shire's growth, and directing large and unnecessary extra costs on to its residents, who already pay for it in spades.

Neville Hughes
Surf Beach

Sun power

SUNNY Spain produces baseload electricity 24 hours a day from its new solar thermal power plants.

A field of mirrors shines onto a tower where liquid is heated to 400 degrees and stored in underground tanks.

The heat runs generators at any time, night or day, cloudy or fine.

Just 12 of these stations, together with hydro, wind and rooftop solar panels, could meet all of Australia's electricity needs.

We could phase out coal-fired power stations, our biggest source of greenhouse gas, and retrain coal workers for more productive jobs.

Australia's 0.33 per cent of the world's population produces 1.3 per cent of the world's greenhouse gases, which means we are one of the biggest polluters per million people.

We have a responsibility to future generations not to bludge on the rest of the world.

In the real world, it's better to go with science rather than conspiracy theories.

Allan Rees
Moruya

What we really think

TERRY McGee calls for action on climate change (*The Last Duck*, Letters, December 26). Peter O'Brien wants none of it (AB about priorities, Letters, December 31).

But what does everyone else in Australia think?

A Lowy Institute poll in 2014 informs us that 2 per cent don't know; seven per cent agree with Peter O'Brien (do nothing); 28 per cent say go with the crowd; and 63 per cent agree with Terry McGee (take a leadership role).

Score so far: McGee 9, O'Brien 1. The Lima call for action will satisfy some of the 28 per cent; this year's Paris meeting should put the meat on the Lima bones.

Then we'll have somewhere between 63 and 91 per cent on board (the remainder will be old white gays in blue ties).

That's more than a mandate, Prime Minister, that's an instruction.

Ignore it at your peril.

Terry McGee
Maha Bay

Mine's proposal still toxic

UNITY Mining's proposal to use cyanide at its Dargues gold mine at Majors Creek has caused a great deal of concern in the community.

Cyanide is highly toxic but, unfortunately for affected communities, it is the most economical method to extract gold from ore.

Because of the method's cost-effectiveness, and the company's financial troubles, Unity has decided to renege on its undertakings to not apply for approval to use cyanide on site.

In a public relations exercise, Unity flew six residents to its Henty gold mine in Tasmania, where cyanide is used, and has also run a number of public information forums at Araluen, Braidwood and Moruya.

At Henty, I saw the cyanidation process firsthand and had many of my concerns about the process allayed.

My concerns are now primarily focused on the integrity of the tailings storage.

I have been involved

with the gold mine from the beginning - and I remain an objector, though not because I am opposed to mining per se.

I support environmentally responsible mining - for a number of reasons, including that we all benefit from it.

I object because of the location of the mine: on the edge of an escarpment, within the Deua River Valley.

The river and its tributaries support households and agriculture in the val-

ley and the river provides Eurobodalla Shire with about 80 per cent of its water.

The environmental impact statement to accompany the application is expected to be available at the end of this month.

A study of it will enable people to argue their case and to argue for more stringent conditions should approval be given.

Peter Cormick
Deua River Valley

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From the Editor's desk

CRITICISM can be hard to swallow.

I received a letter this week claiming that the *Bay Post/Moruya Examiner* has "done so little to present and discuss" council's proposed rates rise, that we should do more "rather than just silently accept these changes".

I yesterday asked the letter writer - and put forward an open question to you, dear reader, how could we have done it better?

We first published general manager Catherine Dale's intention of applying for a rate rise in 2013.

We reported on it as soon as it went to council last year and we have since published five front page stories on the issue - one each in September, October and November and two in December - including the results of council's own surveys which showed overwhelming opposition to the rate rise.

This was in addition to the almost weekly stories inside the paper in November and December.

We explored concerns from community groups. We questioned council's invested \$72 million which it says are "mostly" restricted funds, and examined council staff numbers and how they are funded. We listed projects council had identified as "priorities", published your letters, conducted an online poll and brought you the debate when councillors voted.

I humbly ask, what more should we have done?

This month's *Tross Giant* too takes a veiled swipe at this publication, stating that local press only does "little stories" when council gets it wrong. "You hardly ever see anything when council gets it wrong", it says.

The newsletter author has a short memory, given we have published several stories featuring his opposition to council decisions and proposals.

Then there is the recently established Euro-Leaks Facebook page, which has, in recent weeks, published paid-for posts spreading misinformation about myself, this paper and Fairfax Media.

I was told by a community member that I should set the record straight by defending myself on these posts, if I stand for honesty and integrity.

I do stand for honesty and integrity but I should not have to defend myself against a man with a personal vendetta who finds fault in anything, and everything I say.

I am the first to admit when I make a mistake (and there have been many). I cannot correct them if you do not tell me; I cannot report on things that I do not know about and we cannot improve without constructive feedback.

I am open, I am honest, I can be upfront sometimes but I am always willing to have a chat about anything.

I work hard to produce what I think is a balanced, fair publication, which encourages debate on issues, rather than dictating it, bears witness to the times, celebrates the good times and highlights the bad for the better.

This is how I will stand up for myself - the best way I know how - proving my honesty and integrity in the publication that we produce.

VOX POP: Have you heard about the council's special rate increase?



Kevin Polderva
MALVA BAY
"Yes, I got a notification. I wasn't very happy."



Paul Collins
SURF BEACH.
"I've heard something about the value of the land dropping. People are talking about it."



Bob Ridley
SUNSHINE BAY
"Yes, not happy."



Syd Parkinson
SURF BEACH.
"Yes, I had info dropped in my letter box. It didn't say a dollar amount. I don't fully understand what their proposal is."



Wendy Craswell
SURF BEACH.
"Yes but we don't take much notice. Not much you can do about it."

Pressing questions

THE council's special rate rise is now proposed to be 8 per cent over each of three years or 26 per cent in difficult economic conditions.

I have been very disappointed at councillors' consultation and the depth of information provided to them and public.

Council officers and consultants have called the tune. Discussion of public needs, which has been kept well separate from a confused release of information about the tax rise and the rate to be charged.

How many people have relatively low-priced homes charged on what is in effect an unimproved capital value which reduces consideration of ability to pay? Moreover, are the public aware that the increased rates for businesses will be passed on to service

users to add to increased residential rates, loans for capital works might be effective?

I am surprised after the phoney consultation at the council meeting on December 8 that our local press has done so little to present and discuss the issues.

Surely the press could publish a debate between the sides rather than just silently accept these changes.

How much press content does the council sponsor?

William Liddy
Moruya

Vote of thanks

BOTH Milton Leslight and Liz Innes have been two shining lights in our darkest hours and an inspiration to those of us who value good old common sense, during this long

year - attempting to bring some logical argument to a council full of nothing but doom and gloom for the ratepayers and residents of our shire.

But what can two lonely voices achieve when deserted by their fellow Eurobodalla Ratepayers Association councillors?

The NSW government should 'man-up' like the responsible Queensland government, whose deputy premier notified the Moreton Bay Regional Council to amend its draft planning scheme on sea-level rise policy (Neville Hughes letter *Bay Post*, December 17).

So Andrew Constance, please follow the lead from our northern cousins on sea-level rise policy, which is killing our shire.

At the next council elections, let's also rid ourselves of

the mayor and his cohort councillors who do nothing but roadblock our future, as a prosperous, healthy and wealthy community.

Sorting the general manager and some of the staff is also a most essential task for the next council incumbents.

On a happier note, many thanks Milton and Liz for your support.

Jim Gibson
Long Beach

Council shake-up needed

READ with interest the latest missive from Eurobodalla Shire Council (ESC) dated December 19, 2014 indicating the decision had been made to increase revenue through a special rate variation as a "financially respon-

sible way" to support economic growth, deliver social and economic benefits, fund infrastructure, renewal, maintenance works and a range of other excuses to justify council's ridiculous proposals.

The councillors have rubber-stamped the general manager's submissions without any consideration being given to the significant impact such a decision will have on the majority of ratepayers in the shire.

I would like to lodge my strong objection to this course of action and ask why can't the ESC fund these projects internally from the exorbitant rate revenue they extract from us poor rate payers?

Perhaps a full audit and review of council's current fiscal spending - taking into account the huge salaries allotted to the general manager, staffing and administration of resources - particularly in light of poor management practices evidenced by the bungled handling of the stolen plant and equipment from council in 2014.

Why is it that Bega Shire Council is seen in a much more favourable light by its ratepayers than the ESC? I suspect ludicrous decisions such as the current proposal may negatively impact further on ratepayers' sentiments - both toward council management and councillors who have been elected to represent the ratepayers.

From my (and quite a few others) have spoken to about such matters' point of view, all elected representatives will need to listen more closely to their constituents if they want to keep safe their seats after the next council elections.

I think it is time for a shake-up of management of the ESC.

Sue Kennedy
Batemans Bay

Confidence lacking in council

I HAVE received a letter from council - "council supports a financially responsible rate rise" - informing me of the proposed increase in rates to be applied to ratepayers commencing next year - assuming that the Regulatory and Pricing Tribunal accepts its submission.

My family has been associated with the council since 1959 as temporary residents, and a feature of that association is the unfortunate proclivity for it to be notable for "shonky" activities that on at least one occasion has forced it into administration.

Over the years council has displayed scant regard for transparency; it has engaged in practices asso-

ciated with the engagement of contractors that are dubious; it has not undertaken audits of projects to ensure ratepayers are in receipt of value for money, and it has been profligate with ratepayers' money.

The question that ratepayers should be asking themselves is whether council gives ratepayers any degree of confidence in how it spends their money? I have considerable misgivings with the six dot points set out in the letter as to the reasons council needs this additional funding. Each and all of the items listed are bland statements without any detail. Where for instance is the evidence of community requests for transport infrastructure

projects? What are the "broad range of social and economic benefits" council asserts it will deliver with this additional funding (the provision of which may well be a State Government responsibility and not the role of local government)?

The comment related to the need to address decreased Federal assistance grants is a red herring designed to mislead ratepayers.

These grants are specific purpose grants and not general grants to local government - that is, they are a "bonus" to local government expenditure. Obviously if you don't get the grant you don't do the project.

There is after all a need to "cut the cloth to suit the

tailor".

Council has already garnered additional funding through a not insignificant increase to ratepayers as new residents move to the shire.

Council has also increased charges for the provision of domestic services (roughly 18 per cent over the past five years) and has imposed a very spurious environmental levy on ratepayers.

Council relies on ratepayer complacency, and I urge all ratepayers to make submissions to the Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal as is your right if you are offended by the "grab for money" by council.

John Fuhrman
Central Tilba

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DECEMBER 2014

Date	Publication	Article Title
24 December 2014	Narooma News	Letters to the editor
19 December 2014	Bay Post/Moruya Examiner	No confidence vote in Council
10 December 2014	Narooma News	Special rate variation on council agenda
10 December 2014	Narooma News	Letter to the editor
10 December 2014	Bay Post/Moruya Examiner	Eurobodalla councillors back rate rise
5 December 2014	Bay Post/Moruya Examiner	From the editor's desk
4 December 2014	Bay Post/Moruya Examiner	Overwhelming opposition to rates rise
3 December 2014	Bay Post/Moruya Examiner	Durras group supports rate rise
3 December 2014	Narooma News	Letter to the editor
3 December 2014	Bay Post/Moruya Examiner	Rate Peg Set

Our say ...

THE food gates of visitors are about to open as they always do on Boxing Day with our coastal towns transformed into bustling holiday destinations seemingly overnight.

This season will hopefully be a good one with the falling petrol price and less favourable exchange rate for overseas travellers all leading to more people coming to the coast from inland and the city.

The Narooma district must also be one of the safest, most scenic destinations for a family holiday and as locals we should do all we can to make the visitors best welcome.

Those who own businesses should rush up on their customer service, while the rest of us can smile and be friendly even if there is a little more traffic and longer lines at the supermarket.

The Christmas spirit continues with locals such as Trevor Bennett doing what they do best to raise funds and provide a time enjoyment - sung by 82 Warbler Crescent tonight and make a donation to the Starlight Foundation while you are at it!

Merry Christmas to everyone in the Narooma district and we will be back on Monday to put together the New Year's Eve edition - so send through your contributions and you can always contact us through the Facebook page for any breaking news of local happenings of note.

Letters to the editor ...

Capon on the Christmas menu

At Christmas growing up in England consuming the 'traditional' roast turkey meal was a 'given'.

That was until the year, my culinary, talented mother announced to the family, that 'we would no longer be eating turkey', but instead of it, we would be having capon!

Well, not being fully aware of what a capon was, we were, nevertheless excited at the thought of this 'exotic' and 'potentially-delicious' fowl!

On later discovering that a capon is a castrated rooster, the appeal of this yuletide fare somewhat lost its appeal.

However, it must be said that the capon is in fact a highly sought after chicken, with mellow tasting and

tender white flesh, and well regarded in French cuisine.

Indeed, even Shakespeare gives it a mention.

In a line from the monologue 'All the world's a stage' from 'As You Like It' in describing the stages of life where one has (possibly) achieved wisdom and wealth, he writes 'The justice, in fair round belly with a good capon lin'd'.

I have to admit I haven't eaten, let alone thought about the 'humble' capon for many a year, but as you'd have it, some friends and their families are off to France for the holidays, and you'd never guess what's on their Christmas menu!

Kevin Colaghan
Narooma

Santa's got Soul

What a fantastic day last Saturday was at the Narooma Kinema.

We just wanted to thank everyone who came to the Santa's got Soul shows and all the well wishes and messages of support from the folks who couldn't make it.

Cass Eager and her band the Mo'Debbleys loved every minute of their time in Narooma.

The Kinema is a very special venue said Cass and they are keen to do more shows next year.

The nine musicians felt extra special waking up Sunday morning looking over the inlet

staying at the beautiful Easts Holiday Park.

They all commented that they are never treated to such nice accommodation on the road.

A big thanks to Lyn and Andrew Field and the staff for helping us with the logistics of bringing arts to town.

We had people from Sydney, Milton to Merimbula attending the shows and everyone said they will be back for our 2015 shows.

So it's a very Merry Christmas and a musical New Year.

Fiona Brown and Tim Burke
Slightly Twisted Productions
Narooma

More recognition for Streets

I am so disappointed that there is not more in the Narooma street scape project to properly acknowledge Edwin Street and his wife Daisy.

They were probably Narooma's greatest benefactors.

Edwin and Daisy began their business by making ice-cream in their back shed in Corralmal and selling it to their neighbours.

They advertised their ice-cream as 'The Cream of the Coast'.

The youngest of 10 children, Edwin was an astute businessman. His first popular stick ice-cream was the Heart.

Street's famous 'Paddle Pop' was launched in 1953, selling 90 million by the end of the century, per capita the largest selling ice-cream in the world.

Edwin and Daisy eventually sold Streets to Unilever for 4 million pounds in 1960 and retired to Narooma where Edwin loved to fish.

Edwin and his wife had no children but regularly donated to charities and community facilities, often anonymously.

Their contributions resulted in the building of five swimming pools on the South Coast: Corralmal, Batemans Bay, Dapto, Murrumbidgee and Narooma. They also funded retirement and nursing homes

along the coast, including Daisy Street Lodge which used to be where Horizons Holiday units are now.

But Narooma in particular benefited from the Streets generosity. Narooma swimming pool, Narooma tennis courts, and the skating rink (which used to be where the sport and leisure centre now sits) were all due to their donations.

I heard a fascinating story from local Ken Burke about the advent of the Narooma ambulance station and how we wound up with our first ambulance after Daisy was taken ill and she wound up being driven to Sydney in a hurry.

The Streets family home was willed to become a retirement home/village after they had both passed away.

I remember when teaching at Narooma Primary school when all the children received a Streets ice-cream each year.

Can we please see a billboard erected which properly acknowledges all Edwin and Daisy Street did for our town? Not just a simple sign saying Edwin Street Park. They had no children, but we as a community have all inherited from them.

Kathie Thackray
Narooma

Community Christmas message: Constance

Christmas is a celebration of who we are as a community and as a nation. We all have the opportunity to enhance the festive season for someone else through a quick check on your elderly neighbours, a drink with Bob next door or a simple Merry Christmas, which can mean so much. It's not all about the presents and over indulgence of food - Christmas is a time for love, happiness, gratitude and compassion.

I am proud to be a part of the NSW Liberals & Nationals Government that has led our State to be number 1 again and 2015 will see me continue to work for everything that regional areas such as ours deserve.

In 2015, NSW will see more infrastructure than it has seen in the past 16 years. Jobs will be created, the economy will

remain strong and the NSW Government will continue to invest in regional areas such as ours.

Since becoming the local member 11 years ago, I have seen great changes to our beautiful part of the country. Whilst there is still much to be done, we are seeing improvements to our roads, enhanced health services, exciting disability reforms and a boost in infrastructure.

I am proud to be the local Member for this wonderful area and pleased that in times of need we are all there for each other. Christmas can be a difficult time for many and I would urge anyone that is feeling the pressure to make contact with an assistance service. We have many wonderful organisations that are there to help 24 hours a day.

I would ask that you spare a thought for those less fortunate at this time or those that may be without family or friends.

Please keep in your thoughts those that will be working to protect and keep us safe, volunteering and ensuring our communities keep running on Christmas Day.

I ask that you don't take for granted what you have today as tomorrow it may be gone. Don't lose sight of the true meaning of Christmas.

I take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and extend my best wishes for a safe and happy new year.

If travelling, please drive carefully. Enjoy time with loved ones and I look forward to seeing you all in 2015.

Andrew Constance
Member for Bega

Against casual gun culture

How long are we going to sit on the fence and allow Huntfest to advance towards gun sales?

Did you hear Mike Baird speak of the "wreck" of his emotions on hearing we'd lost hostages in the Sydney siege.

To an evil fanatic with an illegal gun! One of the thousands stolen from licenced possessors every year.

As a 6-year-old I was splattered with the blood of my 3-year-old sister who was shot in the face by my 10 year old brother, pulling a loaded shotgun from behind the back seat of an open-doored ute.

How many innocent victims of casual gun culture a people who feel they have a "right" to have a gun.

Who will always be "responsible"! Never too drunk, too angry, too afraid, too negligent to allow immediate death to be the result of "their right"!

Do we actually mean to vote again for councillors who share the viewpoint of Senator Lyonelbjelma?

Views that have left our Prime Minister horrified and in agreement with John Howard in rejecting calls for gun law shift!

We should all be standing up loud to remove guns from our communities!

Anne Spiers
Cobergo

"I Will Ride With You"

There are words that open the heart

Touch the soul

Reveal to us the beauty

and longed for of our humanity.

I will ride with you

A woman's assurance

To her Islamic sister, stranger

On a suburban train

When news of the Martin Place siege

And the plight of the hostages

Hit the airwaves.

'Put your head covering back on your difference

my sister

I will ride with you'.

Noel Delaney
Narooma

SAFE Christmas

We wish everyone in the community a SAFE and merry Christmas and a SAFE and happy New Year. Best wishes!

Allen Barker
SAFE (Stop Arms Fairs in Eurobodalla)
Narooma

Voices for moderation

I am writing regarding recent correspondence in your paper in which ERA Councillors have been criticised for not performing their roles in the manner expected of them.

The critics have targeted Clrs Schwarz and Burnside in particular for their positions on the strategy to deal with the Whitehead report on Sea Level Rise and their actions relating to the recent vote on a 'Special Rate Variation'.

As a supporter of ERA, their actions do not differ from my views and I've found no published information in any ERA material that suggests they have contradicted any ERA policy anywhere.

Their position on climate change is totally consistent with their responsibilities to act in the interests of all members of the Eurobodalla community.

What concerns me is that their critics seem to mainly come from the far right of the Liberal Party and they are attempting to railroad Schwarz and Burnside into adopting their views on the world using all manner of tactics including highly questionable stunts.

Strangely, the same people who believe climate change is a worldwide conspiracy or plot have morphed into flat earth economic pygmies and are now experts on how Eurobodalla Council should manage the finances of the organisation.

While they are few in number, these critics are very vocal.

I didn't vote for the ERA to end up with them being mouthpieces for any major political party - liberal or labor - or for any extreme views and urge Clrs Schwarz and Burnside to stay true to their course and continue to be the articulate voice for moderation, steady change and responsible economic management at the Eurobodalla Council.

To the outsiders trying to muscle in, I suggest you take a look at what Screaming Lord Sutch did in Britain in the 1980's and 90's.

He formed the Ravving Looney Party - it got a lot of laughs but he didn't succeed at any of the 40 elections he contested.

Paul Fish
Batshaven

Ho Ho Ho and "a bucket of your blood"

Many thanks to St Nicholas's children who signed a recent petition against introduction of the council's compounding rate increase of 26 per cent up to and beyond the next three years.

The assistance given by many business houses towards collection of many signatures from Dalmeny, Kianga, and Narooma and Tilbe areas is profoundly appreciated.

They know that excessive rate increases relate to compounding higher property charges and rents and lower sales due to far less available income for pensioners, battlers, retirees, the unemployed, mothers, fathers and children.

They know the hidden agendas behind "Santa Brown" offering a Christmas present of a "Merry Go Round, Slippery Dip and holding hands with you on a "Monkey Bar."

They know the equivalent of two thirds of annual rates and charges go towards employee benefits and on costs!

They know that these are not "ring fenced". They know that not one beneficial cent will go towards the protection of flood and sea level affected areas at Dalmeny, Kianga and Narooma.

Some know that "Santa's" "property on the "Flat" has been exempted and that a consultants flood report concerning the flat has been kept secret!

Some know that "Santa" and

"helper Burnside" have been publicly requested to release this report.

The latter moved a "smoke and mirrors" motion. "Santa Brown", displaying little sign of compassion, supported this with what appeared to be a pre-prepared speech from the GM and her Elves.

Two heroic Councillors, Innes and Lealight, supported by a house full of public speakers presented convincing and diverse arguments against delivery of unjustified, insensitive and unsubstantiated increase.

"Santa" declared the motion carried. From where some of us were sitting "helper Burnside", appeared unsure if he should vote for his own motion. Stumped in his sleigh his voicing arm gingerly reached shoulder height.

The whole exercise has effectively placed the increase on the path of approval by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART).

To be fair "Santa Brown" and "helper Burnside" are investigating "hard" payment conditions such as accepting a "dead ratepayers chest" as part payment for unpaid rate amounts accruing daily at 8.5 per cent.

Oh! You better watch out
You better not cry,
You better not pout,
I'm telling you why,
"Santa Brown" has come to town.

Peter Bernard
Dalmeny

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Letters to the Narooma News must be signed with the full name and address of the writer and a phone number if possible. Preference will be given to letters that meet a 300 word limit. The Narooma News reserves the right to edit letters. Send your letters to: 'The Editor', Narooma News, PO Box 443 Narooma NSW 2546 or email: stan.gorton@fairfaxmedia.com.au

No confidence vote in council

Dec. 19, 2014, 8 a.m.



NOT CONFIDENT: Long-time Maloneys Beach residents Joan and Bert Dolstra and Maloneys Beach Residents Association member Ian Hardy are opposed to the rate rise and the sea-level rise policy recently approved by council.

THE Maloneys Beach Residents' Association has resolved it has "no confidence" in Eurobodall a Shire Council.

At a meeting on Sunday, Maloneys Beach residents reached a unanimous decision of rejection towards recent council decisions.

About 43 people attended the meeting to discuss the implementation of the sea-level rise policy and proposed rates increase.

All of those who attended the meeting rejected council's decisions to approve the sea-level rise policy and response framework and to apply for the rise.

Maloneys Beach Residents Association secretary Peter Hickman said the community had no confidence in the council.

"They don't have the ability to make a decision to benefit the community," he said.

The association has forwarded a letter detailing its resolution to Eurobodalla councillors.

Group says not clear cut



CLEARING CONCERN: Long-term Potato Point resident Meroe Alexander surveying the extent of clearing of national park near her home.

Continued from Page 1

Barker said that the State Environment Minister took a decision in August on the basis of three options set out as part of the public consultation. His decision involved a considerable amount of clearing, though not as much as in the extreme option demanded by councillor Pollock and a few others.

"Those of us who opposed any clearing were disappointed by the decision and saddened to see the extent of destruction of national park forest that has resulted," Barker said.

"But whatever positions we may have taken in the past, we believe it would be better now for the village to regard the Minister's decision as a compromise that we can live with.

"After such an exhaustive process and over a year of acrimonious debate it is time to put the controversy behind us and to engage once again as friends and neighbours.

"We can then turn to supporting our local fire brigade and ensuring our personal fire protection plans are in place."

Barker added that no-one in the village should be complacent about fire, but it is

feasible to keep things in proportion and to allow the competent fire authorities to make decisions about the allocation of resources without being subjected to special pleading based on misleading statements.

Barker said there were numerous shortcomings and inaccuracies in the article:

- There was no comment from the Rural Fire Service or the Potato Point Fire Brigade, which are obviously the organisations most relevant to this issue;

- Fire authorities do not rate Potato Point's fire risk at the same high level as many other areas. The Eurobodalla Fire Risk Management Plan places Potato Point at number 62 among places or assets at risk in the Shire;

- The area in question came under the control of the National Parks and Wildlife Service in 2001, not 1995;

- Google Earth's historical images showed that the area was already treed when National Parks took over, not a 600 metre grassy firebreak;

- The article failed to mention that the area in question is an Endangered Ecological Community and that it supports a number of threatened species, not just one.



SHADOW MINISTER: Shadow Minister for Small Business Adam Dear and NSW Country Labor leader Leanne Adair with Eurobodalla Shire councillor Orli Kerry to discuss what a new state Labor government would do to help businesses in Eurobodalla in Batemans Bay on Friday.

Special rate variation on council agenda

EUROBODALLA Shire Council's general manager Dr Catherine Dale at yesterday's council meeting was planning to recommend that council notifies the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal that it intends to apply for a special rate variation to commence in 2014-2015.

Dr Dale said that a rate variation would be a financially responsible direction for council and the community who have clearly indicated that they want council to maintain the current level of community and transport infrastructure and services in the future.

"It would be an important step in meeting the NSW Government's new financial criteria and increasing Council's medium and long term financial sustainability," said Dr Dale.

The recommendations also

include that council should review its Rate and Debtors Hardship policy to assist any members of the community who may experience hardship as a result of a special rate variation.

Council yesterday meanwhile was pleased to report that its staff costs as a percentage of total expenditure are below the New South Wales state average and the average for the Office of Local Government's Group 4 councils.

In response to a resolution of council, employee costs have been compared with 152 councils across New South Wales and have been reviewed in detail against Albury, Ballina, Bega Valley and Great Lakes councils.

The 2012-2013 General Purpose Financial Statements and Annual Reports for NSW councils were reviewed to determine how Eurobodalla's staff costs compare to the state

and to similar councils.

The benchmarking report found that over 70 per cent of councils in NSW have higher staff costs as a percentage of total expenditure than Eurobodalla.

The report also found that Eurobodalla Shire Council's staff costs are 31.7 per cent of total expenditure compared to a state average of 35 per cent and Group 4 average of 37 per cent.

Group 4 is a classification of the Office of Local Government which defines councils as having similar characteristics such as population, area, population per density, as well as percentage of population who are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander or Pacific Islander speaking backgrounds.

There are currently 31 councils defined as Group 4 in NSW and Eurobodalla Shire Council

Renew wants home businesses

RESIDENTS who run a creative or technology business at home and would to branch out, could be given an opportunity to do so by Renew Eurobodalla.

Renew Eurobodalla is an economic initiative from Eurobodalla Shire Council, based on the Renew Newcastle and Renew Australia programs, to revitalise towns.

It is now seeking tenants for temporary, rent free office spaces. The offer is open to graphic artists, web developers, writers, computer technicians, social media consultants and video producers who are currently working from home. It offers a low-cost opportunity to provide tenants with options to create a space for their businesses at properties in towns across the shire.

Selected participants will be given access to office spaces that have been made available by participating private property owners.

Mayor Lindsay Brown said Renew Eurobodalla had so far attracted some great property owners and local businesses who will move into their new premises soon.

"This is a chance to be part of a growing creative movement to help build a business and promote local economic and community development by revitalising our town centres," Brown said.

"By contacting our Renew Eurobodalla team you will be supporting the growth of our local business community and bringing new life to our empty shop fronts and office spaces."

Interested business people should contact Sarah Cooper on 4474 1271 or email sarah.cooper@eurobodalla.nsw.gov.au

Slow down or be caught

'SLOW down or be caught' is the Kings Highway Road Safety Partnership's message for drivers heading to the south coast along the Kings Highway.

Eurobodalla, Palerang, Shoalhaven and Queanbeyan shire councils, NSW and ACT Police, the NSW Road Safety Trust, Roads and Maritime Services and the Government are members of the partnership and the 2014/15 summer campaign near Bimbadgen.

The campaign is urging motorists to slow down, be patient, and plan their trip to make sure they arrive safely at their holiday destination.

Many of the cars, caravans, boat trailers, motorcyclists and trucks that travel on the Kings Highway come from Queanbeyan and the ACT. Almost 3000 accidents were issued with speeding fines between December 2013 and January 2014 and 18 crashes occurred on the road, one of them fatal.

"We continue to see too many crashes on this road. Keep to the speed limit and allow plenty of time to ensure that you get to your destination safely," said sergeant Angus Duncombe of the Batemans Bay Highway Patrol.

"Police will be doing all they can to keep you safe with a presence on the highway but drivers have a big role to play."

The NSW Government has recently provided \$10 million in funding to upgrade the Kings Highway in 2015 under its Restart NSW Regional Freight Program. Potato Point and Safety program, Eurobodalla mayor Lindsay Brown said.

More dumping as rubbish campaign begins

Continued from Page 1

"It would be much cheaper in the long run," Mr Bender said.

"If the dumpers left the stuff on the side of the highway, instead of trying to hide themselves and their rubbish in the forest, the eyesore would be removed quickly - presumably by council.

"Personally I would like to see admittance to the forest restricted to people on bikes or walkers, these people, after all, are the ones who daily pick up the bottles and cans and other rubbish which is thrown from cars by the 'tossers,'" he said.

Illegal dumping campaign The Southern Councils Group is working with the

NSW Environment Protection Authority on a new campaign to target illegal dumping on the south coast.

The campaign focuses on illegal dumping in bushland areas. It will also highlight the heavy fines that illegal dumpers face.

In May this year NSW Government penalty amounts were increased for some offences under the Protection of the Environment Operations Act. Under these new provisions, Eurobodalla Shire Council officers can issue illegal dumpers with on-the-spot fines up to \$4,000 for individuals and up to \$8,000 for businesses. Offences under the Act can reach fines up to \$250,000 and possible jail time.

Mayor Lindsay Brown said illegal dumping was a problem in our area because it caused damage to our native bushland.

"It also adds a financial burden to our ratepayers who wear the considerable cost of cleaning it up," he said.

"It is illegal to dump rubbish or litter but we see waste dumped in community areas such as our streets and footpaths, nature strips, reserves, parks, car parks and waterways and this threatens wildlife and our environmental health."

"I urge residents and visitors to make sure they use the waste services and facilities that Council provides rather than resort to dumping.

"We provide many

opportunities to help you responsibly manage your waste including annual kerbside and chemical collections and our three waste management facilities which offer free waste and other recycling services."

If you witness or come across illegal dumping, please report it immediately to the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) hotline, 131 555.

For more information about waste services in Eurobodalla, please visit Council's website www.eac.nsw.gov.au or call 02 4474 1000.

The Southern Councils Group is made up of Eurobodalla, Bega, Kiama, Shellharbour, Shoalhaven, Wingecarribee and Wollongong councils.

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Our say ...

Well here we go into the festive season and there is so much on around the traps!
Don't forget the big Narooma streetscapes street party complete with ice-cream handed out by the Paddle Pop Lion this Saturday morning.

This is a big milestone for the community and the Narooma Flat has never looked better.

But all these projects do cost money and therefore the council is asking for a special rate variation - how this all pans out remains to be seen.

And the very next day on Sunday evening it's the Narooma Plaza Carols by Candlelight on at NATA Oval starting at 7pm.

Santa will arrive on the back of the RFS fire truck and the VRA will be selling electric candles and Santa hats - let's hope the weather cooperates!

The crazy weather continues making us think there is something going on with the climate that is a bit more sinister than the normal cycles.

Your own work and family parties continue on as the month progresses so don't eat too much and be careful out on the roads.

Mayor's say ...

The Australian Energy Regulator released its decision on the Essential Energy draft 2014-19 Regulatory Proposal last week and I am delighted to tell you that in response to our council's submission that we lodged along with 19 other councils and six regional organisations of councils, that the regulator has blocked the bulk of the proposed increases.

Essential Energy had originally proposed an increase in public lighting maintenance charges in 2015-2016 of 78 per cent that would have cost our Eurobodalla community \$144,221.

The regulator has stated that this draft decision is one of the key steps in reaching their final decision which will be released in April 2015.

Before that, Essential Energy will have the opportunity to submit a revised proposal in response to

this draft decision and stakeholders will also have the opportunity to make submissions.

Fortunately I will be able to continue to advocate on behalf of our community for fair electricity prices as last month I successfully nominated to represent local government as one of 11 members on the Essential Energy Streetlighting Consultative Committee.

The committee's purpose is to provide a platform for ongoing, two-way communication between Essential Energy and councils and to identify issues and opportunities relevant to streetlighting services and performance.

Our role will be to provide advice and insight into specific issues and projects related to streetlighting, including new technology and to review compliance with the Public Lighting Code and agreed variations.

Keeping a watch on the cost of electricity

We will be expected to work cooperatively to develop service standards that are efficient and minimise operating costs and street lighting tariffs.

This committee will be an important advocacy platform for regional councils and as always, I look forward to being able to represent my community on these important issues.

I hope to see some of you at the Celebrate Narooma event on Saturday to celebrate the completion of the \$4.6 million transformation of the Narooma Flat.

The free event will run from 11am to 1pm and you can enjoy a barbecue, live music and lots of activities to entertain the kids. A highlight will be free Streets' Paddle Pops as a tribute to the town's link to Ted Street, the founder of the Streets' Ice-cream company.

The celebration is also a huge

thank you to my fellow Narooma Streetscape Sunset Advisory Committee members: Councillor Neil Burnside, Graham Reeves of Narooma Sports and Services Club, Lyn Field of Big 4 Narooma Easts Holiday Park and Ori Kanny of the Narooma Chamber of Commerce.

I will also be extending my thanks to the Roads and Maritime Service, and all Narooma residents and businesses for contributing to the project during the design phase and for being so patient during the works.

Please let me know if there is any issue you feel Eurobodalla Shire Council may be able to help you with.

You can email me at mayor@eurocoast.nsw.gov.au or phone me on 0418 279 215.

Cir Lindsay Brown
Mayor of Eurobodalla Shire

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thanks for the memories

To all the people who contacted us, called in to see us and sent cards, flowers, chocolates and wine, and even a Christmas pudding (yum) when we sold our real estate business, Tony Berry & Associates, to wish us well in our retirement... we would just like to say how very, very much we appreciated all your good wishes and kind thoughts expressed to us.

We enjoyed immensely 30 plus years in real estate in Narooma, and meeting so many people in that time, and now we feel sure we will continue to have just as much enjoyment and pleasure...with a difference in our retirement.

Once again, 'thank you'!

Gail and John Green
Narooma

Why consult on HuntFest?

Regardless of what residents of Eurobodalla Shire feel about the Narooma HuntFest, surely every one of us must be concerned that our council was able to completely ignore the wishes of over 80 per cent of residents who engaged in the "community consultation" process.

Anna Ganders
Narooma

Disgraceful on HuntFest!

Pot, kettle and black spring to mind when considering ERA's reason for existence.

According to its website, the formation of the ERA was due to "community dissatisfaction with (previous councils) attitude to the community" and "its indifference to community opinions."

ERA's mantra is: "we want to promote your interests in the local government of our shire."

ERA councillors were elected to office on this premise.

So, with 81 per cent of resident and ratepayer submissions opposing the HuntFest amendments, the decision should have been a 'slam dunk'!

The truth is, residents and ratepayers had 'Buckleys' chance of influencing council's decision as we were competing against an online campaign through websites such as 'Shooters and Fishers' and 'Gundales'. Hunters from all over Australia were urged to support the amendments by sending submissions to ESC - and our councillors paid attention.

Patricia Gardner
Deua River

Named and shamed

Thank-you Narooma News, for naming those councillors who voted in favour of the variation of the HuntFest licence.

I will now know which councillors to be shown last on my ballot paper at the next elections.

Gail Farrell
Delmery

A final word on HuntFest

There are only two things I can't resist: a challenge, and temptation!

Last week's Narooma News contained two letters from our democracy-loving SAFE members, once again promulgating mistruths and bad maths in a misguided attempt to mislead non-aligned readers into opposing HuntFest.

First, Ms Webb opined that "Eighty-one percent of people who identified themselves as residents made submissions opposing the expansion of HuntFest..."

Given that the shire has about 37,000 inhabitants, most of whom no doubt do identify themselves as residents, a couple of hundred do not constitute 81 per cent!

Second, Ms Webb omitted to mention that more than half of the 489 submissions made to Council on the issue actually supported the proposed changes.

Admittedly more than 50 per cent of the "pro" submissions were from people outside of the shire, although unlike the 40,000 names on an "anti" petition, the 'pros' were real Australians, many, if not most, of whom had visited HuntFest over the past two years.

Some of the SAFE petition signatories were from people from such areas as the Upper Volgs and other peace-loving democracies.....Although just why someone from Russia, Africa or outer space would care one way or another about HuntFest is one of life's unexplained mysteries.

Council just don't get it

AFTER weeks of crying poor and telling ratepayers they must pay 26 per cent higher rates or there will be no more roads or bridges, council announce a huge opening ceremony for our Narooma landscaping.

At a million dollars over budget and six months overdue one wonders whether it is a call for celebration.

Opinions vary widely as to the value for 4.6 million dollars ratepayers have received.

Like it or not, already \$1 million out of pocket, perhaps a modest opening would have sufficed.

Not for our mayor and senior council staff. They need a crowd to beat their

chests in front of and add to the photo opportunity.

It may have been cheaper to rent a crowd but council decided to bribe them with gifts. Barbecue lunch and ice cream, live music and a jumping castle, face painting and balloons and all for free.

Paid out of the mayor's allowance? Wrong. Out of the GM's inflated salary - not likely. No it all comes out of the rate pool.

It would be a shame to have a ceremony where people could have a quiet walk around the area.

Sad if people had to go to the bakery to buy lunch or the ice creamery for a treat.

The businesses on the flat suffered enormously dur-

ing the streetscape works. But council is not in the habit of helping small business.

How often must council be reminded to stick to the basics? Public money should not be used to provide entertainment or hand-outs. Cut the waste and drop the rate rise!

In last week's mayors column the mayor was wondering why no-one was nominating for an Australia Day award. In the present climate winning an award from the Eurobodalla Council would be akin to winning an award from ISIS or the Ku Klux Klan.

I would therefore be grateful if the issue now ceased to be a bone of contention. Can we all agree to live and let live, please?

S Kennedy
Corumb

Bruce Rappins
Kanga

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Letters to the Narooma News must be signed with the full name and address of the writer and a phone number if possible. Preference will be given to letters that meet a 300 word limit.

The Narooma News reserves the right to edit letters. Send your letters to:

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Bay Post MORUYA (/)

Eurobodalla councillors back rate rise

Dec. 10, 2014, 7:16 a.m.

Eurobodalla Mayor Lindsay Brown says council's decision to notify the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal that it intends to apply for a special rate variation next year is financially responsible and will deliver a significant economic and employment stimulus to Eurobodalla.

The proposed rise would add five per cent a year to the average rate bill for the next three years, adding around 25 per cent to the average bill by 2017.

With the average ratepayer now paying \$818.80 per year, if the variation is approved by the tribunal, rates will go up by eight per cent each year (five per cent from the special rates variation and three per cent from normal pegging). That means an increase in the first year of \$65.46, \$70.71 in the second year and \$76.35 in the third.

The decision comes after the majority of Eurobodalla residents who took part in a phone survey and made submissions on the proposed rate rise opposed the idea. [Read more here \(/story/2742924/overwhelming-opposition-to-rates-rise/\)](/story/2742924/overwhelming-opposition-to-rates-rise/).

The rate rise is proposed to address council's backlog of infrastructure works and funding gaps caused by decades of rate-pegging by the state government.

The report presented to council was amended by Councillors Neil Burnside and Peter Schwarz and makes sure the community will be widely informed about how a special rate variation would contribute to council's ability to be financially sustainable and its ability to meet the NSW Government's new Fit for the Future financial criteria.

Crs Burnside and Schwarz also moved that council's independent Audit Committee should monitor the implementation of a special rate variation, and 'ring fence' the future rate revenue to infrastructure renewal in perpetuity.

The amendments included that the audit committee would review the Fit for the Future criteria and report back to council on the impact of the rate variation and the efficiencies and savings that will be required to achieve council's long term financial sustainability in line with the NSW reforms.

Cr Brown said council has already made significant savings in recent years and this must continue to be a priority for the organisation.

'Costs have been cut by improving procurement and asset management practices, improving productivity, reviewing service delivery and safety practice, using better work practices and technologies and building regional partnerships,' Cr Brown said.

Another recommendation called for council to review its Rate and Debtors Hardship policy to assist the members of the community who might experience hardship if a rate variation was introduced in the 2015 – 2016 financial year.

'The decision on whether or not to progress this application was always going to be difficult and we certainly understand that in an ideal world no one want to see their rates increase. It is however a financial reality that in addition to focussing on efficiencies and cost savings, increasing the rates revenue is an important step towards ensuring our future financial security and delivering a broad range of economic, employment and social benefit.

'Our community has been very clear that they expect Council to continue to deliver the same levels of services and infrastructure in the future,' Cr Brown said.

He says it was this expectation and councillors responsibility to ensure that Council is financially sustainable that underpinned Tuesday night's decision.

Council developed its draft Long Term Financial Plan and revised its Delivery Program 2013-2017 to include a special rate variation and will place them on public exhibition from today.

Residents can view the documents and how to make a submission by visiting the Public Exhibition page of council's website, www.esc.nsw.gov.au, and the three libraries in Batemans Bay, Moruya and Narooma and council's customer service centre in Moruya.



From the Editor's desk

IF council's special rates variation is approved on Tuesday night, any value given to community consultation in the past will surely be thrown out the window.

Council's general manager Dr Catherine Dale has recommended the council proceed to apply for a special rate rise, despite its own community consultation process identifying that the majority of ratepayers are against it.

A phone survey, conducted by micromex research, found residents had reasonably robust levels of satisfaction with the current levels of servicing and facilities provided by council.

In fact, 13 per cent were very satisfied, 54 per cent were satisfied, and 22 per cent were somewhat satisfied.

Residents indicated they believed it was very important that council continued to improve its community and transport infrastructure, but not at the expense of their wallets.

Sixty-four per cent preferred continuation of current funding over a rate increase above a rate peg of 3 per cent over three years to achieve levels of service.

This was compared to the 36 per cent of respondents who thought the increase was reasonable and affordable for improvements that will benefit the community.

The survey provided a maximum sampling error of plus or minus 4 per cent, at 95 per cent confidence rate.

But it did not stop there.

In addition to the survey, council received 113 submissions by letter or email on the proposal, 92 of which were opposed.

The community has spoken - it does not want this rate rise.

Whether its decision is best for the community long-term is yet to be seen.

But it would surely be political suicide for any councillor, who purports to represent the community, to vote for it.

VOX POP: Do you believe everything you read on the internet?



Sarah Price ULLADULLA
"No. It is too easy to put things on there."



Brian Neiland SURF BEACH
"It depends on the source."



Julia Hill SYDNEY
"No. It has little factual-based information."



AJ Hill SYDNEY
"No. Internet is freedom of speech and not everything is true."



Sara Robinson CANBERRA
"No, I do not. So many lies on the internet."

Disappointing result

ON November 28, Justice Craig of the NSW Land and Environment Court delivered his judgment in Eurobodalla Fluoride Issues Inc versus Eurobodalla Shire Council over fluoridation of Eurobodalla's water supply.

This was a test case of Justice Biscoe's 2010 ruling which effectively stated that the impact of a pollutant on the receiving environment had to be considered to the fullest possible extent.

Justice Craig's 72-page judgment is a profound disappointment for EFIG and the scattered anti-fluoridation groups around Australia, which ranks as the world's most fluoridated "democracy".

Our pro-fluoride federal and state governments and fluoride-polluting industries will be applauding the outcome.

The judgment effectively sidelines Justice Biscoe's requirement for Eurobodalla Shire Council to carry out a proper environmental impact study on the effects of fluoridation.

It transfers this responsibility to the National Health and Medical Research Council, which has consistently endorsed water fluoridation as an equitable population measure for reducing tooth decay without risks to general health.

Both claims are hotly disputed.

Curiously, Justice Craig's judgment has provided some much-needed clarification.

It is now clear that the NHMRC has overriding responsibility for treated water guidelines, the administration of therapeutic goods and the outdated fluoridation policy.

Consumers risk a plethora of health problems when they drink water deliberately "fracked" with industry's toxic fluoride waste.

Dr John Lusk President, Citizens Against Fluoridation Inc Port Macquarie

to brake. However, the road was wet and slippery, the ute fishtailed, spun, and just missed an oncoming vehicle.

The ute then overbalanced off the edge of the road, rolled and became wedged between a concrete culvert and a tree.

The ute is a write-off but the only injuries sustained by the occupants were a cut that needed stitches, and bruising.

Helen and Steve Stafford thank everyone who attended the scene.

Special mention goes to the Elgas guy, Adam and friends and Leah.

Helen Stafford

One-term wailies

THE Victorian election result is no surprise to many people outside Victoria.

Clearly, the results are of some concern to many conservative politicians in other states and the nation's capital who can see their positions and lifestyles threatened and unstable.

Some of the conservatives' spin doctors are attempting to distance the Coalition government from the mood of Victorian voters, saying the election was decided on state matters.

Those saying state matters decided the election are in a panic.

Many Victorian voters have interests in other parts of the country as well.

The outcome was obviously a sign of things to come as state elections come around.

The idea of having wall-to-wall local, state and federal governments was an extravagant dream by a few hoping to line their own pockets with taxpayers' dollars.

One-term governments will become a regular occurrence all over the nation because political parties are not genuinely representing the majority.

Alan Brown Batemans Bay

To the rescue

ON November 16, my partner and I and our three children - aged 14 months, three years and 15 years - were travelling from Bermagui to Batemans Bay.

Our car had a flat tyre so we needed help.

We were passed by many cars and my children became hot and restless.

Anita Davis and Tim Evans Tumut

Better luck next time

IN or about 1997, council issued development control plans on certain Batemans Bay coastal properties using a sea-level rise prediction from the IPCC of 39cm by the year 2050.

In 2002 the Batemans Bay Coastline Hazard Management Plan was adopted which altered planning benchmarks

using a revised sea-level rise prediction from the IPCC of 20cm by the year 2050.

In 2010 a new sea-level rise planning benchmark was then adopted by council, using yet again another revised sea-level rise prediction from the IPCC of 40cm by the year 2050.

And last week a further new sea-level rise planning benchmark was adopted by council, using a fourth revised prediction from the IPCC of 21cm by the year 2050.

I am not quite sure how a tame council consultant and council "experts" can refer to the IPCC predictions as evidence for planning purposes when the evidence is evidently wrong every time the IPCC

benchmark was adopted by council, using a fourth revised prediction from the IPCC of 21cm by the year 2050.

I am not quite sure how a tame council consultant and council "experts" can refer to the IPCC predictions as evidence for planning purposes when the evidence is evidently wrong every time the IPCC

takes another guess every five years or so, hoping to get it right.

Meanwhile, property values across the shire have nosedived while council staff shop around for the answer that they want.

David Lambert Long Beach

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BACKWARD GLANCE

Front page news five years ago



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BayPost MORUYA (/)

Overwhelming opposition to rates rise

By EMILY BARTON

Dec. 4, 2014, 5:02 p.m.

EUROBODALLA Shire Council's general manager Dr Catherine Dale will has recommend council apply for a special rate rise, to begin in 2014-15, in a report to be presented to Tuesday's council meeting.

It comes after the majority of Eurobodalla residents who took part in a phone survey and made submissions on the proposed rate rise opposed the idea.

The five per cent annual rate rise for three years is proposed to address council's backlog of infrastructure works and funding gaps caused by decades of rate-pegging by the state government. It would add around 25 per cent to the average bill by 2017.

As part of the community consultation on the special rates rise, an independent consultant asked 602 people in the shire what they thought about a rate rise.

The consultant's report shows 64 per cent of residents feel a rate increase would not be affordable for many residents and council should improve its financial management.

Thirty-six per cent thought the increase was reasonable and affordable for improvements that will benefit the community.

Of those who did not agree with the rate rise, 23 per cent felt strongly about their decision. Just 13 per cent were "very supportive" of a rate rise.

Council also received 113 submissions by letter or email on the proposal; 15 were in support and 92 were opposed.

Two submissions gave conditional support and four submissions contained a number of questions that were to be answered by council.

Dr Dale said a rate variation would be a financially responsible direction for council and the community, "who have clearly indicated that they want council to maintain the current level of community and transport infrastructure and services in the future".

"It would be an important step in meeting the NSW Government's new financial criteria and increasing council's medium and long-term financial sustainability," Dr Dale said.

Her recommendations also include that council should review its rate and debtors hardship policy to assist any members of the community who might experience hardship as a result of a special rate variation.

Other information included in Dr Dale's detailed report is the effect of the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal's announcement this week the 2015-16 rate peg will be 2.4 per cent.

"This is 0.06 per cent less than the 3 per cent previously advised by IPART and will negatively impact the 'base' case in this report and council's ability to be financially sustainable," Dr Dale said.

The proposal will be considered at council's meeting on Tuesday.



Durras group supports rate rise

By EMILY BARTON

Dec. 3, 2014, 8 a.m.



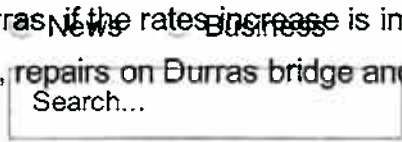
YES TO RISE: Friends of Durras convener John Perkins has given council's proposed special rate variation the tick of approval.

A **SPECIAL** rates variation has gained approval from the Friends of Durras, who are happy with two of three priorities listed by council.

Council will next week consider whether to apply to stagger a 26 per cent rates rise over three years, which it proposes to spend on infrastructure and use to fill an infrastructure funding shortfall.

The council's

three priority infrastructure projects in Durras as the rates increase is improved, are a new toilet at Durras Lake boat ramp, repairs on Durras bridge and Durras Drive culvert upgrade.



Friends of Durras convener John Perkins said council made an outstanding effort in providing services right across the shire.

"We support the special rate variation and, as we all know, costs go up," he said.

"Council is burdened to provide services in these times of increasing costs."

Mr Perkins said a perfect example of the services provided could be seen in the work done on the Batemans Bay foreshore.

"You turn left off the Batemans Bay bridge and the area there with the beautiful seats and covered areas, they are really special," he said.

"It stands out as a really classy development.

"The Eurobodalla is probably one of the nicest areas in Australia and council makes a outstanding effort in providing services right across the shire."

Mr Perkins did not agree with all the priorities to be funded by a rate rise in Durras listed by council, however.

"We would like to discuss the issue of the priorities listed with council but we wholeheartedly support the bridge repair and the Durras Drive culvert upgrade," he said.

"The bridge is particularly old infrastructure and we can see it does require some maintenance.

"The new toilet at the Durras Lake boat ramp would be something we would need to discuss with council.

"There are some significant engineering issues around Durras Lake because of the local flooding that occurs.

"We would need to have more information about the new toilet proposal."

Although Mr Perkins said he did not agree with some of council's decision, like the approval of HuntFest, he found council a pleasure to work with.

"Sometimes you have to agree to disagree," he said.

"I'm constantly impressed with how helpful they have been."

Our say...

Summer is here, officially. And summer heralds peak season for far south coast small business - accommodation and service providers in particular. This is the season when, hopefully, they generate additional income to bolster their businesses through the quiet times of the year.

This summer is being forecast by the Bureau of Meteorology to be hot and dry - a classic "long, hot summer" that makes Australians everywhere just want to head to the beach and the water. It is also the case that the economy is flat and many families are feeling the pinch, so the overseas adventure holiday is likely to lose out in favour of quiet times close to home.

A hot summer and tight budgets might just be the recipe for a bumper season for traditional family holiday destinations like our wonderful part of the south coast - and that means crowds. Yes, it's a two-edged sword: a really good season for our local businesses means we lose the wonderful peace and quiet and community atmosphere that is one of the great things about living here.

Government school terms finish a bare two weeks away - and private schools in some of our holiday catchment areas like the ACT will be finishing up in the next week or so.

So now is the time to prepare to get ourselves to face crowded decks, struggle to find a park, wait to cross the road - and all the other minor frustrations that holiday visitors bring.

But it's also time to put on our best welcoming smiles and practice being helpful, because that's the best way each of us can help our local small businesses make the most of their peak season.

Mayor's say...

Make someone's year next Australia Day

Here's something you may not be aware of: every year at about this time we ask the community to nominate someone who deserves to be recognised for an Australia Day Award.

We issue media releases, I do radio interviews and we use council's online newsletter and Facebook page to promote it as well.

Surprisingly, we haven't received as many nominations as I believe we should expect in a community like ours where volunteering is a way of life for so many wonderful people.

The deadline is this Friday, December 5, and it only takes a few minutes to fill in the very simple nomination form that's on

council's website. So how about it? If you know someone who deserves some special recognition please take a bit of time and make their year!

You can nominate someone who has achieved something outstanding or made a great contribution to the community, or a local that has made a real difference to local sport or who is an outstanding sports person.

Events are part of our rich and vibrant life in Eurobodalla - they give us an opportunity to catch up with each other and get out and about, somewhere to take our visiting friends and relatives, and they help our business people and the economy.

They are usually run by a hard working group of volunteers too! If you know of an event that has raised funds for the community or that has brought recognition and credit to the community, fill in the form and you may be enjoying seeing them get some credit.

Maybe you have seen someone worked tirelessly in their chosen field or in the community? Or someone who has made an outstanding contribution or shows excellence in their field?

There are five awards handed out on Australia Day and these are the Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year for a person under 26 years old, Community Event of the Year and Sports Achievement

Award and the Jeff Britten Award for the Pursuit of Excellence, which is also judged and awarded on the same day.

I can assure you, that quiet achiever who tirelessly goes about doing great things for our community would be very, very pleased if they were to receive an award next Australia Day, so put your thinking caps on and nominate someone now!

Please let me know if there is any issue you feel Eurobodalla Shire Council may be able to help you with. You can email me at mayor@eurobodalla.nsw.gov.au or phone me on 0418 279 215.

Cl Lindsay Brown
Mayor of Eurobodalla Shire

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

HuntFest vote was council arrogance

In voting to approve the sale of guns and an air rifle range at future HuntFest events, councillors Pollock, Innes, Schwarz, Burnside and Leslight ignored the views of the vast majority of Eurobodalla residents who participated in the recent community consultation on this issue.

Eighty-one per cent of people who identified themselves as residents made submissions opposing the expansion of HuntFest, yet these councillors, elected to represent the community, chose to ignore the clear message coming from the ratepayers of this Shire.

Only 38 submissions from identified residents - out of a total of 489 - supported the proposal, which is less than eight per cent.

The only thing worse than not consulting the community on important issues is consulting and then ignoring the views put forward, in this case by 92 per cent of participating residents.

I am sure I am not alone in feeling very let down by these councillors' breathtaking arrogance.

Louise Webb
Klanga

Gun laws: just how strict is strict?

It is curious how the pro-gun lobby always compare Australia to the most liberal states in the USA when it comes to gun laws.

Why don't they compare us to Japan? In Japan they have virtually no gun homicides.

In 2008, the U.S. had over 12,000 firearm-related homicides. All of Japan experienced only 11.

In 2006 Japan had just two deaths, and when that number jumped to 22 in 2007, it became a national scandal.

By comparison, also in 2008, 587 Americans were killed just by guns that had discharged accidentally.

To get a gun in Japan you have to attend an all-day class and pass a written test, which are held only once per month. You also must take and pass a shooting range class. Then, head over to a hospital for a mental test and drug test (in Japan potential gun owners must affirmatively prove their mental fitness), which you'll file with the police. Finally, pass a rigorous background check for any criminal record or association with criminal or extremist groups.

You must provide police with documentation on the specific location of the gun in your home, as well as the ammo, both of which must be locked and stored separately. You must have the police inspect the gun once per year and to re-take the class and exam every three years.

In NSW you don't have to do a practical test as to whether you can hit a target! And they rely on your honesty when you fill in the paperwork as to whether you have a mental disorder.

Watch this chilling video titled Dear Mom and Dad - Get to work saving my life! shared by thousands in USA searching for stricter gun laws: <http://youtu.be/7BdMHSDFOU>.

Kathie Thackeray
Narooma

Great shots, great kids

We would like to congratulate Georgia and Jakob Poyner on their selection as finalists in the student section of the Moran Photographic Prize, which is showing currently at Juniper Hall, Paddington. Terrific work - keep it up!

Howard and Janet Jones
Narooma

Political blindness is rife

The Victorian Liberal government was not so bad that they needed to lose this election. But I admit that, not living in Victoria, Victorians may know better.

One of the issues, the east-west tunnel, was seen correctly by the public, in that building it may not fix the problem of traffic congestions in Melbourne.

What they need is a better public transport system, and this is why the Greens got a better result this time around.

I may not know too much about Victoria, but I know that new roads have not solved much of Sydney's traffic problems so far.

They only makes residents at the lower end of existence poorer. So far every so-called improvement of a road creates a new bottleneck somewhere else.

Our son tells us that, in trying to avoid Sydney traffic congestion, he is getting up earlier and earlier every morning. Now he is running into the nightly road works on the motorways and is paying for something he is not getting - a good run on the way to work.

The federal government, not admitting that they are partly to blame for the Labor

party's win, only shows us how blind they are.

No wonder Australian citizens are losing faith. I would suggest getting together with the new Labor government over there and work to solve the problems in order to get us a better result.

We are all very sick and tired of politics. Let the independent experts do the job.

And I have a question to the federal trade minister in regard to the trade deal with China. He suggested that China needs our help to prosper and this would be good for our business with them. I have my doubts.

We should know by now that China will always invest only for itself in Australia and does not need our help. One has to be blind not to see that.

Investing in us and producing what China wants makes it our business. I don't believe the private sector here is too poor to invest in Australia. Oh! I forgot again, there is the issue of tax avoidance. Sometimes I am struck by blindness as well.

Mira K. Kruger
Central Tilba

Council should trim its cloth

Your newspaper demonstrates its importance to our community with the wide ranging reports and opinions you circulate. Council's latest call for a special rate variation stirs reactions from many readers who normally remain silent.

Silence is smugly adopted as endorsement, or approval, by council's self-assured decision makers.

Big government is telling us there is insufficient money to do what it promised to do,

that everyone must share the pain and budgets are being slashed. Even our ABC is being told corporations that can't find annual savings of five per cent simply require better managers.

Five per cent improvement in our council's productivity would eliminate the need for a special rate increase.

With improved productivity residents should enjoy seeing what a well-managed, highly motivated, enthusias-

tic team of 450-or-so council staff can really achieve for their community with council's existing \$100 million budget.

Rather than a special rate variation it is past time for the shire to oil its hinges. To open its tightly closed door to "can do" managers with the energy and skill required to advance Eurobodalla's superb natural attractions and advantages.

Don Burns
Turoos Head

Helium is nothing like harmless air

Last Saturday I was horrified to see IGA Moruya handing out hundreds of helium-filled balloons to their customers.

Helium is a non-renewable resource and experts warn it should be conserved for more important applications.

When a helium-filled balloon is let go it will rise into the air, blow away, burst into a shape resembling a squid and return to earth or the ocean. Seabirds, sea turtles and other creatures mistake these balloons for food and eat them, blocking their intestinal tract which leads to starvation.

Ribbons and strings that are attached to balloons cause entanglement and death. Sadly one cannot walk along beaches today without seeing these strings everywhere.

Falsely marketed as bio-degradable, latex balloons contain chemicals that can take years to break down. Obviously it takes a lot less time for a seabird to find one floating in the ocean and eat it.

I was a member of Australian Seabird Rescue for many years and have seen first-hand the devastation that these so-called bio-degradable balloons cause.

As I said, I'm over trying to educate people. If you want your children to have an ocean full of plastic and cause suffering to wildlife, continue supporting the balloon sellers by accepting the balloons given out by people who know no better. If you want a better world for your children, refuse these so-called 'bio-degradable' balloons and tell the sellers why.

Peter West, Turoos Heads

Quota trivia night

Having recently attended the Narooma Quota club trivia night I would like to congratulate everyone involved.

What a fun night was had by all! Lots of laughs, lots of friendly banter, lots of good humoured differences of opinions. And then there was the food supplied by the club. Yummy and lots of it!

The whole night was well organised and ran smoothly from go to whoa. It's so nice to witness people having lots of fun without the need for alcohol.

Congratulations Quota members. You have come up with a great way to raise money for worthy community causes while having fun and playing games. Thank you, I hope it can continue.

Narelle Davis, Dalmerly

Red Cross makes Christmas appeal

As the festive season approaches and as we reach the end of our centenary year, I am reminded of the wonderful work of our Red Cross volunteers.

Each year our volunteers give hundreds of hours of their time to help people in crisis, not only in our local community but right around the world.

I am also constantly humbled by the generous public support we receive for our everyday work.

Your regular donations to Red Cross help provide healthy breakfasts for kids who might otherwise go to school hungry, allow us to make a phone call every day to check that elderly or isolated people are okay, and help ensure remote communities in the Asia-Pacific have access to clean drinking water.

We also work in communities to help vulnerable families cope with the pressures of life, build pathways out of homelessness and work in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Despite our best efforts however, there are always new families that need our help each year, new communities that find themselves in crisis, and a growing number of lonely, elderly people who find themselves cut off from friends and family.

At this time of the year, when the generosity of all Australians shines through I would like to urge everyone to put a little something aside for people and families in crisis.

To give to the Red Cross Festive Appeal go to www.redcross.org.au or phone 1800 811 700. Your tax-deductible gift to the Red Cross Festive Appeal in our centenary year will make a real difference.

Jody Brown
Executive Director NSW
Australian Red Cross

Computers for Men's Sheds

I am writing to let you know that BeyondBlue is giving away free computers and internet connections to newly-established Men's Sheds across Australia.

We still have quite a few computers to give away and I would encourage anyone thinking about establishing a new Men's Shed in their community to get in touch with the Australian Men's Shed Association, which administers this initiative.

The Australian Men's Shed movement has brought together thousands of men over the past decade to share their interests, learn skills and build lifelong friendships - and this has benefited not only the communities in which the sheds have been established, but also the men themselves.

For men who don't have a computer at home, they can use the shed's computer to develop new skills, access websites, email family members and perhaps learn how to pay bills online.

Also, all of the Men's Sheds have a page on BeyondBlue's The Shed Online website www.ishedonline.org.au, where they can promote their activities and interact with the broad online community.

Research shows that attending a Men's Shed can improve men's mental and physical wellbeing by helping them feel socially connected and less lonely.

With loneliness and social isolation a growing problem in our communities, establishing a Men's Shed is one of the best ways to ensure that men in your community stay connected to each other.

The sheds often foster a sense of acceptance and create a sense of purpose as the men work together on projects such as making or fixing things for the community. So if there has been talk of starting up a Men's Shed in your area, please contact the Australian Men's Shed Association on 1300 550 000 to find out how to access the benefits that they bring.

Georgia Harman
BeyondBlue

Fiona Lodge praised

By **KERRIE O'CONNOR**

A RIVERINA couple says a 600km trip to the seaside was good family medicine after their toddler was diagnosed with a serious illness.

Rachelle Ward and Greg Halloran live daily with the complications of Type 1 Diabetes, after their two-year-old daughter was diagnosed with the chronic illness last year.

Camilla, now three years old, is still not convinced needles four times a day are much fun, but the view outside the window at Rosedale's Fiona Lodge certainly helped.

"At home we have to use the TV as distraction to give injections," Ms Ward said.

"Not at Fiona Lodge. There were birds outside."

With big sister Ellena, 5, Camilla ran on the beach three times a day and the whole family could relax after a shocker of a year.

"It was tear-jerkingly, brilliantly, overwhelmingly fabulous," Ms Ward said.

"When you live 600km from the ocean, you don't see it very often."

The cereal chemist said she picked up the phone to the retreat after returning from another trip to hospital.

A recent vomiting bug proved again that what is a hiccup to most families



GOOD MEDICINE: Rachelle Ward and Greg Halloran say a brief sea change at Fiona Lodge, Rosedale, was great family medicine after Camilla, 3, was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes. She spent hours on the beach with sister Ellena, 5.

can be a huge hurdle to others.

While Ellena needed a day on the lounge, there was nothing so simple for Camilla.

"We had to go in ambulance to the next major town," Ms Ward said.

"That is when I rang Fiona Lodge and said, 'Um, I need to get out of here'."

Ms Ward praised Ronald McDonald Beach House

and the Eurobodalla businesses who provided gift vouchers for their week-long stay.

"When your child has a chronic disease, you are making big decisions all the time," she said.

"The hardest decision we had to make was should we go to the beach or use one of the amazing vouchers."

She said it was wonderful for Ellena, who also

lives with the implications of the illness.

"She has to watch her sister going away in an ambulance and have needles and that is hard," Ms Ward said.

Mr Halloran said Camilla's needs, combined with a demanding role in the wine industry, had taken its toll.

The couple hope to raise awareness about an often misunderstood disease.

"Type 1 Diabetes is an auto immune disease that is partially family-history derived or just bad luck and can be triggered by a viral infection," Mr Halloran said.

"We did not even know Camilla had had a virus."

Their first clue was Camilla's excessive urination and desire to drink.

"We would have to change her sheets twice a night," Ms Ward said.

KOALA PLAN DISCUSSED

VOLUNTEERS leading the push for a Eurobodalla Koala Plan of Management met with representatives from the Office of Environment and Heritage in Bega last week.

It was decided at the meeting the plan would primarily focus on the Coolagoolite area.

Koala project leader Keith Joliffe said the plan would primarily focus on the Coolagoolite area.

He said this area might be feasible at a cost of \$35,000 "if those funds can be found".

Mr Joliffe said more surveys would be undertaken in the Eurobodalla in places where evidence of koalas had been found, including Nerrigundah village and Warban Creek.

"The surveys will see if it is possible to confirm any resident koala groups in the Eurobodalla," he said.

Eurobodalla council will be approached for its support for a cross-border koala population and for Forestry Corporation's Koala surveys.

RATE PEG SET

INCREASES to Eurobodalla Shire Council's general income will be capped at 2.4 per cent in 2015-16.

The rate pegging figure was released by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) this week.

It means council can only raise its rates by a maximum of 2.4 per cent, unless it is approved for a special rates variation.

The rate peg does not apply to stormwater, waste collection, water and sewerage charges, however.

IPART chairman Peter Boxall said the rate peg was determined by changes in the Local Government Cost Index, which measured changes in the average costs faced by councils.

"The Local Government Cost Index increased by 2.47 per cent in the year to September 2014, reflecting the continuing low inflationary environment and a subdued rate of public sector wages growth since late 2012," Dr Boxall said.

If council decided to increase residential rates in line with the rate peg, it would mean an additional \$22 for the year, or around \$0.42 per week, for the average household.

The average residential rate assessment in NSW would be around \$945 in 2015-16.

Forces combine for weekend boat rescue

VOLUNTEERS from Marine Rescue Batemans Bay and Broulee Surf Life Saving (SLS) worked together to save a father and his daughter after their runabout washed on to rocks on Jimmies Island at the weekend.

The Marine Rescue crew of skipper Mick Syrek, Matt Mason and Peter O'Brien responded to a call for help from the pair about 11.15am Saturday.

Their 5.6m boat was on the rocks on the island, offshore from Rosedale, south of Batemans Bay. The pair was uninjured.

With the rocky outcrop preventing Marine Rescue from reaching the

pair, SLS members on an inflatable boat rescued them and transferred them to the Marine Rescue vessel.

Marine Rescue towed the runabout and made a slow trip back to Batemans Bay into a north-easterly wind, returning safely by 2.15pm.

Marine Rescue NSW regional controller Bob Herbert congratulated the Batemans Bay and SLS volunteers for their efforts in the joint rescue operation.

"Our members train and work together to ensure they can work seamlessly together on operations such as this to save lives on the water," he said.



TEAM EFFORT: Surf Life Saving and Marine Rescue combined to rescue a stranded father and daughter on Saturday.



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Date	Publication	Article Title
28 November 2014	Bay Post/Moruya Examiner	Time to oil council's hinges
26 November 2014	Narooma News	Letter to the editor
23 November 2014	Bay Post/Moruya Examiner	Council priorities questioned
23 November 2014	Narooma News	Council priorities questioned
21 November 2014	Bay Post/Moruya Examiner	Letters to the editor
19 November 2014	Narooma News	Rate increase totals 26 per cent
19 November 2014	Narooma News	Letter to the editor
19 November 2014	Bay Post/Moruya Examiner	Tide turns at rates meeting Proposed rate increase totals 26%
19 November 2014	Bay Post/Moruya Examiner	Broulee community identifies different priorities
18 November 2014	Bay Post/Moruya Examiner	Proposed rate increase totals 26%
18 November 2014	Bay Post/Moruya Examiner	Batemans Bay Eurobodalla Shire rate rise meeting well attended
14 November 2014	Bay Post/Moruya Examiner	Letters to the editor
13 November 2014	Bay Post/Moruya Examiner	Council: Invested funds needed
12 November 2014	Bay Post/Moruya Examiner	Mayor's memo – responding to community requests
12 November 2014	Bay Post/Moruya Examiner	Eurobodalla Shire Council rate rise information session attracts 13
12 November 2014	Bay Post/Moruya Examiner	Letter to the editor
12 November 2014	Narooma News	Council provides more information on rate variation.
11 November 2014	Bay Post/Moruya Examiner	Northern residents reject SRV: POLL
7 November 2014	Bay Post/Moruya Examiner	SRV Info Sessions Views sought on rate rise
6 November 2014	Bay Post/Moruya Examiner	Playgrounds, rates and rubbish: the dilemma
6 November 2014	Bay Post/Moruya Examiner	Public meeting called over Eurobodalla Shire Council's proposed rate rise
5 November 2014	Narooma News	Letters to the editor
5 November 2014	Bay Post/Moruya Examiner	Mayor's memo

News Business**BayPost** MORUYA (/)

Time to oil council's hinges

Nov. 28, 2014 6 a.m.



YOUR newspaper demonstrates its importance to our community with the wide-ranging reports and opinions you circulate.

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Don Burns

Tuross Head

Our say ...

This week's letters columns are dominated by readers' views about a proposed rise in Eurobodalla council rates. At the same time, both our local ABC radio and television has been dominated by the ABC's reaction to a budget cut.

The two issues may seem very separate but they do have one thing in common: they both go to what we ordinary consumers expect from the public institutions we fund.

It has become fashionable in past decade or so for government funded - which really means taxpayer funded - organisations to become "corporatised" and act and look like regular companies. In many ways, this has been a good development, because it applies commercial disciplines to their operations.

But it also means these organisations have adopted the trappings, the structures, the ambitions and the language of modern business. So councils propose a "special rate variation", immediately situated to SRV, instead of talking about a plain increase in rates.

More important, it seems that "corporatisation" may blur the focus of some of our institutions on what they are really about - and what we really expect of them.

Our letters columns reflect a concern among Eurobodalla ratepayers that their council may not have the same spending priorities as ratepayers: that it might have lost its focus on the traditional council tasks of looking after sewerage, garbage, parks, and local roads.

In a similar way, the ABC's response to budget cuts makes it appear the broadcaster is less concerned with maintaining what were its traditional tasks - like strong regional radio - and more concerned with keeping up with the latest technology (a lot of which is not available in regional areas).

We should not shy away from reminding our institutions that it is our money after all.

Mayor's say ...

Last week members of the South East Regional Organisation of Councils (SEROC) Board met with 10 NSW Ministers at Parliament House in Sydney. Andrew Constance NSW Treasurer and Member for Bega was the first Minister to address the group and he spoke frankly about the financial challenges ahead for both local and state government.

Our discussions with the NSW government ministers were an opportunity to raise regional issues and to collectively represent our south east region that includes the ACT. SEROC represents around 750,000 people and we have some of the fastest growing councils in NSW in the group.

Operating as a single region has allowed us to grow and strengthen regional partnerships, particularly in across the border with the ACT government.

All ministers were keen to hear our views and for us to provide feedback and comment on various policies and proposals. The discussions were open and robust. We talked about the need for key infrastructure upgrades for Barton, Kings, Moruro and Princes Highways, the Lachlan Valley Way and Kosciuszko Road, and we asked the Minister for Planning to host a workshop between the ACT and NSW government agencies about the regional growth plan.

We reiterated the need for good telecommunication and mobile phone coverage and the impact on small business and the tourism industry when these performed less than adequately in regional areas.

Regional tourism is an important economic driver for SEROC members and we discussed the benefits of working collaboratively to grow the visitor economy in the southeast

Telling our regional story

and ACT region. We were able to explain the importance of the Canberra Airport supporting regional aviation, and discuss regional implications of high speed rail, and public and community transport.

We stated that planning effectively for regional water and sewer infrastructure and integrated catchment management was a high priority and one that we would pursue on behalf of our communities.

The recently appointed NSW Coast Border Commissioner, James McTavish, took part on the meeting and we talked about the alignment of state government boundaries for the south east region of NSW.

The board was also pleased to use this meeting to endorse a new SEROC strategic plan which details the key themes and priorities for our member councils and ACT government. SEROC's strategic plan can

be viewed at www.seroc.nsw.gov.au.

SEROC has already proved to be a successful partnership where collaboration and resource sharing has seen efficiencies and cost savings across councils and this strategy will enhance that in the future.

SEROC membership is made up of the ACT government and councils in Bega Valley, Bombala, Boorowa, Cooma-Monaro, Eurobodalla, Goulburn-Mulwaree, Harden, Palerang, Queanbeyan, Snowy River, Upper Lachlan, Yass Valley and Young.

Please let me know if there is any issue you feel Eurobodalla Shire Council may be able to help with. You can email me at mayor@eurocast.nsw.gov.au or phone me on 0418 279 215.

Cr Lindsay Brown, Mayor of Eurobodalla Shire

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Rate rise raises questions

In council's brochure, we see the case put for a rate rise - an impressive list of infrastructure projects across the shire that would be funded as well as catching up on the infrastructure backlog.

The only quantified saving I could find reference to was a \$1.25m wages reduction achieved by seeing if vacant positions really needed filling. This large saving was made after our being told innumerable times that there are no savings to be made.

Comparisons show our rates are lower than other shires' suggesting the special rate variation (SRV) increases are affordable and fair but we haven't had our total annual rates and charges bills compared with other shires offering the same range of services. Pure rates represent only some 30 per cent of our annual bills, so what of the other charges? How do they compare? What will happen to these other fees and charges if the SRV application proceeds and is successful?

A typical Moruya residential property's total rates and charges are already up \$190 or 9.6 per cent over the past two years, 80 per cent of which was from the other fees and charges. Will these changes be less volatile in the future? Will private incomes increase in order to afford them?

Nearly all the cost increases facing council in the brochure, given as reasons for support of a rate variation, are not news to ratepayers who are "in the same boat" with rising costs of living. Not much sympathy will be given to council's asking for more, especially by those on fixed or diminishing incomes. Is there a down side? What is likely to happen if the SRV application either doesn't get the go-ahead or is rejected by IPART? What services or facilities would need to be reduced or eliminated for council to remain financially viable? Do we want that to happen? Are there more savings to be made?

While full, open and frank disclosure of information appears lacking to me: I hope our councillors could answer these questions on both sides of the SRV case before making their decision in early December.

Jeff de Jager
Colla



UP TO DATE: Olivia Avery, a Narooma Pre-School student, at the pre-school with the school's 2015 calendar.

2015 Narooma Pre-school calendar

NAROOMA Pre-School is happy to announce that our lovely bright calendar for 2015 is now out and should be arriving in your mail boxes very soon - or perhaps it already has! We would like to say a huge thank you to all the local businesses that have supported the Pre-School for another year, the overwhelming positivity and friendliness of everyone involved is truly amazing.

Unfortunately, we have had some feedback from members of the public that their calendar was misprinted and a bit blurry. We would like to apologise for this. We are so very sorry this has happened. There will be spare copies of the calendar at the Pre-School for anyone who wishes to receive another one.

Thanks again, and looking forward to another brilliant year.

Kirsty Avery

Council rates rise? Maybe okay, but...

AT the risk of becoming a serial pest I felt compelled to comment on Mayor Brown's recently published views on the proposed "special rate variation" (in typical 21st century-speak, we can't call a spade a spade, or a rate rise a rate rise). But enough of nit-picking! It's time to get constructive. Positive and sensible. Not small-minded and carping, as is my usual wont.

It must be recognised that the wants and needs of a community anywhere, of any size, will always exceed the capacity of the powers that be to provide them. Eurobodalla Shire is no different: here we have all the usual (self) interest groups, and then some! Pensioners, the aged, the disabled, youth, families with children, families without children(?), pre-schoolers, the employed, the unemployed, the active, the not-so-active, and last and definitely least, the Greens.

All of us belong to one or more of the above-mentioned groups and thus have a vested interest in how council spends our money, both rate revenue and the other 45 per cent of its funds.

Some of us want, or genuinely need, considerably more from Council than most. I use the public library and occasionally a public convenience (dirty and graffiti-riddled though they generally are). I also drive on some council-maintained roads and, sadly, on some council roads that are very, very seldom maintained - certainly not twice a year, as it works schedule cunningly tries to persuade us.

In recognition of the fact that demand will always exceed supply, and that our shire has a disproportionate share of the elderly (about 35 per cent of our population, vs. about 30 per cent in most rural NSW shires) who do need more services

than most other groups, I will state that I am not necessarily opposed to an increase in our rates.

Certainly it is odd (if true) that ESC rates are lower than other poverty-stricken shires, such as Bega Valley and Palerang. Who knows why that should be so? And if it is, I personally don't oppose a variation upwards that would bring us at least in line with those comparable shires. (The mayor and general manager may now be breathing a sigh of relief, and wondering why I wasn't one of the 600 being surveyed! I suspect that if you asked any 100 Australians if they would like a rate rise you would get very few shouting "Yes, please!")

But my "yes, please" is tempered (or perhaps tepid is a better word?) because while I can understand the need for prices to sometimes rise above inflation - which is, after all, what the "rate variation" is - my acceptance of such a move would depend very much on what the extra cash will be spent on.

My simple proposal (if/when our rates do rise) to demonstrate clearly where the money goes would be that council set aside specific amounts for specific purposes. Say, five per cent of the increase to be spent on replacing playgrounds; 10 per cent on expanded services for the elderly and/or disabled; 10 per cent on improved waste facilities and services; 20 per cent on better road construction and maintenance; etc. I will bitterly oppose any rise that simply takes my money and dumps it into a "general revenue" pool to be used for council (or special interest group) pet projects.

S. Kennedy
Corunna

Council rate rise: priorities wrong

This is part of a letter I have written to the council re the proposed rate rise. For the second time I have been asked for a phone number so they can ring me with answers. For the second time I've asked can I please have it in writing. I don't see the problem with that.

Why call it a variation? Why not call it for what it is a rate rise?

The playground at Rotary Park in Narooma is accessible to all and I see no reason to change it. There is plenty of scope for viewing between Narooma and Dalmeny, and I believe a viewing platform at Carters Headland is totally unnecessary as there is plenty of access there. I don't believe anything would be gained by another new viewing platform.

What was wrong with the playground at Dalmeny? It seemed perfectly fine to me and I heard no complaints from friends whose children and grandchildren play there.

Plenty of new playgrounds seem to be on the agenda, but have you considered the very out-dated and worn, inadequate monstrosity at Forsters Beach Narooma?

There seem to be plenty of new disabled amenities planned, but Dalmeny seems to have been overlooked completely. If I go to an outdoor outing with family or friends in Dalmeny, I have to be taken home to go to the toilet. Is this deemed to be a satisfactory option for the disabled? Not for me it isn't.

The toilet at Forsters Beach is long overdue for a new locking system, such a small and simple thing, and the drainpipe under the handbasin is nothing short of a joke. How about some decent, proper plumbing?

Narooma Swimming Pool was closed for maintenance a few months ago. Instead of the bottom of the pool having its usual repaint, five - yes five - absolutely ridiculous lounges and

three large flat screen televisions were installed. What on earth are three TVs and five lounges needed for at a swimming pool?

While I think some of things council is proposing are quite reasonable and all very nice, I think money would be better spent on maintaining what is already here before it goes spending money on more new items to be neglected and not maintained.

I'm sorry but I think council has its priorities all wrong. This shire has many pensioners in it: I am but one. How am I to afford to pay such an unreasonable rise?

Why so much attention to playgrounds that don't need it to be paid for by people who can't afford it and won't use it? I'm not opposed to children having playgrounds, but please

Wendy Brown
Dalmeny

King out-ranks Princes for road funds

Recent NRMA comments about the Princes Highway and Alan Evans's accompanying huffings and puffings are recycled stories, albeit updated, from several years ago.

Again the NRMA and Alan Evans state the bleeding obvious, that the Princes Highway (as with every other state highway) could benefit from upgrading.

Again they identify no possible new source of funding that might make any upgrading possible.

And again, they examine the Princes Highway in isolation - conveniently ignoring other, perhaps more deserving, roads

that also need improvement.

I'd suggest if any new money for local highway improvement can be found, that it first be spent on upgrading the Kings Highway.

The Kings Highway carries much more traffic and has a significantly worse accident history. It desperately needs many more passing lanes and extended-length passing lanes, starting with one extending west from the top of Clyde Mountain.

The cost-benefits would be much higher than any improvements to the Princes Highway south from Nowra or Ulladulla, simply because

the terrain from the top of Clyde Mountain to Canberra provides fewer (and cheaper) challenges to road builders and, I suspect, the far south coast economy would benefit far more from improving the Kings Highway than from spending an equivalent amount on the far south coast section of the Princes Highway.

I do agree with the NRMA that our local section of the Princes Highway is less than ideal, but several other state highways plus the road networks around Sydney need upgrading first.

Peter Lacey
Queanbeyan

BayPost MORUYA (1)

Council priorities questioned

By EMILY BARTON

Nov. 23, 2014, 6 a.m.



Lei Parker a concerned Tuross resident does not support the proposed SRV by Eurobodalla Shire Council.

News Business

A Tuross Head resident does not support council's proposed special rates variation and believes less than half of the extra rates fee will go to the current infrastructure backlog.

Lei Parker said the list of community infrastructure projects set out by council in the Funding Our Future Brochure should be funded regardless of a rate rise.

The brochure lists infrastructure projects which Eurobodalla Shire Council would fund if the proposed special rate variation (SRV) is successful.

Mr Parker understands only half of the projects proposed are backlog projects, the other half are new projects with no priority.

"This means we are still left with a backlog that will have to be addressed with another rate rise," he said.

Council's list of priorities for the Tuross community include minor deck upgrade at Kyla Hall, Kyla Oval storage and toilet upgrade, Foreshore reserve seating and upgraded beach access at One Tree Point.

Mr Parker said the seating at One Tree Point was not in need of replacing and would cost council \$33,000.

"This is a waste of money," he said.

"They don't need replacing and have all been donated by the community.

"Why didn't they think to nominate some of the existing park furniture in Tuross that actually does need replacing?"

Mr Parker believes none of the projects listed as priorities for Tuross warrants a 26 per cent increase in rates over three years.

"No project in Tuross currently warrants a rates increase because they don't have that urgency," he said.

"As a community we are going along really well and if we need to we will raise the money for a skate park, like we did for our basketball court."

He said the top three priorities recently identified by the community were the completion of the cycleway from Coila Beach to the Tuross Head Country Club, a viewing platform at One Tree Point and the pathway from Tuross Boulevard to Monash Avenue finished.

"I do not support the special rates variation at all," Mr Parker said.

"Not until council can show an improvement in its management.

"Until they can prove they will effectively manage the special rate variation increases to the benefit of the community I will not support it."

A petition against the SRV has been placed in the Tuross Newsagency.

Eurobodalla Shire Council mayor Lindsay Brown and general manager Catherine Dale will attend a SRV information session in Tuross on Saturday, November 22 at Buffers Café between 9am and 11am.

Mr Parker hoped the community will inform themselves on the issue.

"I hope they will come with a neutral line of thought and ask questions of their concern," he said.

The story Council priorities questioned

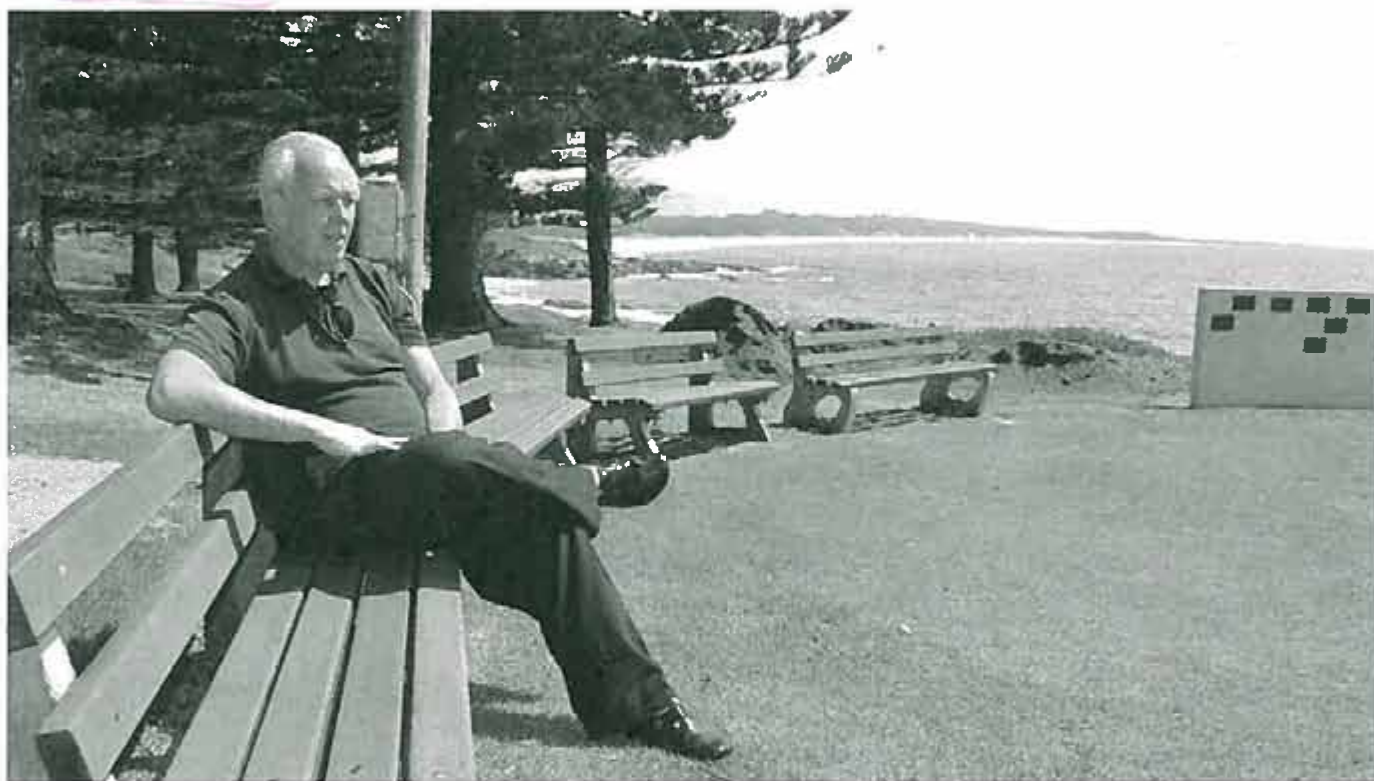
(<http://www.naroomanewsonline.com.au/story/2713189/council-priorities-questioned/>) first appeared on Narooma News (<http://www.naroomanewsonline.com.au/>).

Narooma News (/)

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Search...

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From the Editor's desk

CRYSTAL methamphetamine hydrochloride is a filthy drug.

More commonly known as ice, it is highly addictive, can cause stroke, memory loss, anorexia, heart problems and sleep problems.

It can make you look years older than you are, damage your teeth and cause skin lesions.

It causes hallucinations and paranoia. Users often become aggressive and violent.

The drug releases monoamines and can eventually destroy the brain's receptors, leading to a point where the user cannot feel pleasure without further ice use.

Police say they are doing their best to combat the ice scourge, but admit they need help, which is why Fairfax Media launched the Breaking the Ice campaign earlier this year.

Ice is a "whole of community" problem, not just impacting the users themselves but also causing trauma and financial hardship for families, as well as wider social issues.

It also clogs up our police resources and court systems.

We are grateful that the former Eurobodalla mum, featured in our news this week, shared her story.

The sad fact is, her story is not altogether unique.

NSW Police reports that for every 10,000 people in our shire, there are between 700 and 1000 drug offences.

There are possibly hundreds of people keeping their addiction hidden in our community.

NSW Police this month launched Operation BAUD, otherwise known as the 'dob in a druggie' campaign, targeting illicit drug offences, whether it be dealing, use, cultivation or manufacturing.

Residents with information can phone a special line on 4478 9937, and leave their report anonymously on an answering machine.

For those addicted, help is available.

Speak to a doctor, counsellor or other health worker, or the Australian Drug Information Network, which provides comprehensive information about drugs, their effects and where to get help.

> VOX POP: What is the most important issue to you in the Eurobodalla and why?



Rhys McDowell
DURRAS
"Entertainment, as it gets kids off the street."



Casey Erana
CATALINA
"Entertainment because we need more skate parks and festivals to express ourselves."



Molly Wilkinson
LONG BEACH
"Education because I'm still at school and it's important to go to a good uni."



Chad Heycox
LONG BEACH
"Education because there is not much to do or see in the area."



Stephanie Lord
BATEMANS BAY
"Education because we need to get jobs and have a secure income."

Brush with infamy?

I REFER to sea-level rise policy affecting real estate (*Bay Post*, November 12).

Oh, I see it's not President Obama and Chairman Xi Jinping who are responsible for policies on climate change and its consequent sea-level rise but Eurobodalla Shire Council.

Will council now become famous or even infamous?

Similar reasoning will bring one to the conclusion that the 43 nations that now have a carbon price policy must be terribly wrong.

Sea-level rise is causing worldwide problems which, ultimately, will affect us all. It needs national governments to seek solutions.

Bryan Young
Catalina

Support praised

ON behalf of Maranatha Lodge Aged Care Facility I wish to thank all the volunteers who gave their time to help with setting-up for our

garage sale.

Also the many people who arrived on the day with offers of help.

Without them, our day would not have been such a success.

To the local businesses Woolworths, Capital Chemist, Batehaven Meats, and Norri B, we say thank you.

Your generosity is much appreciated.

Norma Dean
Friends of Maranatha
Committee.

Doesn't wash

I AM a regular visitor to Mogo, travelling from Lilli Pilli to support our local businesses.

I have recently visited Mogo with my 83-year-old elderly mother. We both needed to visit the public amenities and were directed to the public toilets right down the other end of where we were shopping. (And, no, the shop where I inquired was not going to allow us to use their toilets. Therefore we had to trudge right on down the road to the south end.)

A long unnecessary trip could have been avoided if there were some public conveniences at the other end of town.

I had a similar experience many years ago when I had a toddler and young school age children. I was directed to the other end of town to use the public facilities. A total inconvenience!

We need some sort of upgrade to the public toilets down the south end of Mogo. The current toilet block is unsightly and in desperate need of an upgrade, or better still demolition and a new fresher facility built for the public.

The placement of another public toilet at the northern end of Mogo would be ideal as well.

Last week on the front page of the *Bay Post/Moruya Examiner* I noticed a listing of where our proposed rates money is going back into the community. Where was Mogo's injection of money for any upgrade? Why does Mogo miss out?

I'm sure this inconvenience occurs every day of the week

for many people visiting Mogo, unless a shop offers their toilet.

I have had generous shop owners accommodate before but not everyone is so accommodating.

George Rindley
Lilli Pilli

Action needed

WE Australians invested a lot of money in this G20 talk fest, half a billion dollars. It better be worth it.

Experience with past G20 summits tells us most likely it will change little.

Mr Abbott's wishlist of a two per cent growth in the economy might be a dream and the other leaders think so, too.

Most likely they have a different approach than our present government and give it a go with a more environmentally friendly industry.

They have learned that we can't ignore nature in the equation.

I agree with the member of parliament Mr Heffernan that wanting to deliver on the deal with China and provide them

with much-needed food is very limited to say the least.

I can recall from our early years in Australia, what our government is planning to do in the area around Normanston could end in a disaster.

Turning it into cattle country?

That place is flat as far as the eye can see and had a flood metres high over a vast area for a long time in 1973.

We don't really fully understand as yet what to expect from a changing climate.

In the past and present the dirty industries came up with the idea to move to countries where they had less restrictive laws when polluting.

I feel that industries which create pollution when producing our goods have an obligation to do the right thing.

We are depending on them to act now.

The world is coming close to finding out how much pollution it can afford.

K Kruger
Central Tilbe

An apology

THANK you for your coverage of the launch of *The Unravel Story of World War I & the NSW South Coast* (*Bay Post/Moruya Examiner*, November 12).

It resulted in some stockists rapidly selling all their initial stocks and the entire print run, which would normally be sufficient for 12 months' demand, being completely exhausted in just 10 days.

My apologies to those unable to immediately purchase a copy.

A second print run has been ordered and the book should be back in all outlets next week.

It seems to me this has been a powerful example of the continuing effectiveness of local newspapers.

Peter Lacey
Queens

Say 'no' to rate rise

IN 2011 our council sought support for a similar huge increase to our rates.

This was emphatically opposed by the ratepayers and wasted a huge amount of time, money and consultancy fees.

The result was no rate rise variation so our council went ahead with big increases in all fees and charges.

Now on top of that they want another 26 per cent increase over the next three years.

Councils get their CPI increases each year without question and this rate variation is just an obscene

grab for cash.

When Joe Hockey announced changes to pensions in the federal budget our caring mayor and GM went straight to Canberra to protest on behalf of the large proportion of ratepayers in Eurobodalla who are pensioners.

Now they are pushing for a 28 per cent rate rise, one wonders who they represent.

A recent announcement stated over a \$1 million surplus for council last year. Who needs a rate rise? If funds are needed let's try cutting staff and

expenses.

Our mayor could stay home more often and use new technology to communicate.

Community services could be pruned to those that are needed. Residents do not need council to show them how to ride a bike, or cook a meal or what to plant in the garden, etc.

It has disadvantaged so many residents and wasted so much of our rates with draconian LEP and sea-level rise policies. It has stifled development with a negative approach to any building.

Council's increased fees and charges have spared no-one—even dog registration recently increased over 25 per cent.

It is vital people let council and our local member Andrew Constance know they are not in a position to pay for this variation to our rates, or in favour.

Council needs to work within its means like the rest of us do. If they cut the waste, then a rate decrease would be possible next year.

Bruce Kaplins
Kiangs

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Rate increase totals 26 per cent

RATES bills will not fall at the end of the three-year special rate rise period, council's infrastructure services director Warren Sharpe clarified on Monday night.

At Monday night's meeting at the Batemans Bay Library, residents expressed confusion over whether rates bills would return to their original amount after the three years.

Infrastructure director Warren Sharpe clarified this was not the case.

He said the rise, including annual increases recommended by the state government under rate pegging, added up to "just under 26 per cent after three years" and was ongoing.

"The SRV is cumulative and then gets to a point, and then the rate pegging (annual rate rises) applies after that point so it doesn't go up and then come back, it essentially continues on," Mr Sharpe said.

The 5 per cent special increase for three

years is expected to raise \$3.85 million per annum for council by year three and \$7.4 million in total over the three years.

This would be spent on a range of infrastructure projects across the shire, estimated to be worth about \$17 million.

An additional \$1.2 million per annum would be put aside to fund ongoing renewals.

The proposed infrastructure projects were identified as priorities in the council's Recreation and open space strategy, which was compiled in consultation with the community.

Mr Sharpe said council would borrow funds to complete the works within a four-year timeframe, and the perpetual income generated from the higher rate base would pay off the loan.

Funds for maintenance and operation of the facilities, as well as their replacement and depreciation, were factored in, he said.

Deviates charity bowls gives back



RFS DONATION: Dalmeny Deviates Ken Shepherd and Whacker Gotsalks hand over \$500 to RFS captain Adrian Cooper and senior deputy captain Daniel Bailey.



VRA DONATION: Dalmeny Deviates Ken Shepherd and Whacker Gotsalks hand over \$500 to VRA rescue squad members Jeff Garrad and Mai Barry.

THE Dalmeny Deviates have done what they do best distributing funds to the volunteers that look out for the community.

The proceeds from this year's charity bowls day at Club Narooma was last week handed over with two \$500 checks going to the Narooma Volunteer Rescue Association rescue squad and also to the Narooma Rural Fire Service brigade.

Jeff Garrad from the VRA squad said the money would go toward the purchase of another portable LED work light used to light up accident scenes.

While RFS Captain Adrian Cooper said the money would go toward finishing off the extension and roof at the station.

Ken Shepherd from the Deviates said he hoped other volunteer and service groups from around the district would participate and have a bowl in next year's event and that in turn could land them a donation.

"It's all about helping out on the day and then we show our appreciation by helping them out." Organisations such as

the VRA meanwhile are always looking for new volunteers of all skill and ability levels, so get involved!



RIVER GARDEN: River Cottage Australia host Paul West and his dog Digger in one of the veggie gardens at the property at Tilba.

Filming of River Cottage Series 3 wraps up

FILMING at River Cottage Australia is wrapping up with the Series 3 set to air early next year.

The crew and host Paul West are hoping for an announcement from Foxtel soon announcing that the show will go to a fourth series.

The show has continued with its sustainability themes and living off the land with Paul regularly selling his veggies and other produce at local markets.

West continues to branch out into new areas using the expertise of fellow locals and producers, but all will be revealed when the next series airs.

The traditional final feast took

place on the Tilba property on Sunday that this time took on the form of big cricket match between Tilba and Turinjab.

Stopping in for the day from the UK was documentary maker Andrew Palmer from the company Keo Films that is producing the show.

He had some good news in that the BBC had now purchased the show and so those in the UK will soon be seeing the beauty and productivity of the local area.

Journalists meanwhile from publications including the Sydney Morning Herald and several magazines toured the property last Mon-

day night after heading out to Montague Island on a local charter boat with the host.

West cooked up the morwong and flathead the journalists caught and answered their questions about life on the farm.

"The economic side of it can be very difficult but I know plenty of people who are doing it and direct marketing of your products is the only way you can make it work — selling directly to the people who eat the food you produce," Paul said.

The trend of consumers demanding locally grown and sustainable produce would only continue to rise in Australia, he said.

Oyster festival shaping up green

NAROOMA Chamber of Commerce president Orit Karny Winters is in the midst of organising next year's Narooma Oyster Festival that for the first time will take on a distinct green theme.

There will be a "No waste" message across the festival as well as an emphasis on local producers and lowering food miles.

She recently attended the recent South East Harvest Festival in Moruya where she got a few new ideas and also whispered in the ear of gardening guru Costa Georgiadis about the festival, mentioning that he may like to attend.

Keeping with the no-waste theme, the art project and parade for the 2015 festival will be "no waste".

It will include a street art made out of bottle tops and the group organising the art is looking for everyone to keep bottle tops for them — so make sure to start stashing your bottle tops!



OYSTER CONNECTION: Narooma Chamber president Orit Karny Winters and her daughter Libby with gardening guru Costa Georgiadis and some oysters at the recent South East Harvest Festival.

Christmas Sale

UNTIL THE END OF NOVEMBER!

TABLE LAMP BASE WAS \$69.95 NOW \$49.95

50% OFF ENERGY SAVING FLOOED DOWN-LIGHTS

DESK LAMPS WERE \$28.50 NOW \$15

20% OFF ALL SHADES AND BASES

FLOOR LAMP BASE WAS \$129.95 NOW \$85

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Our say ...

THE state government might be trying to cut red tape for councils with its proposed changes to the Local Government Act, but the move is more likely to widen the gulf between local governments and the communities they serve.

Instead of having a legal obligation to run printed notices in local newspapers about vacant senior staff positions, legal issues and proposals to sell land, councils will be able to choose which communication streams they use, if the changes are adopted.

Whether they deserve it or not, many councils are magnets for complaints because many issues they deal with strike at the heart of their community.

The changes are far from being a done deal but, if it goes ahead, each council will be able to make a final decision on how it will get important information to its ratepayers.

Removing print notices would be a backward step for the relationship between council and ratepayers.

While this newspaper readily acknowledges that this view is also in our best interest, our research, as one with a look in both the newspaper and digital world, tells us that many people still look to the newspaper, rather than go online, for their local news.

If people have easy access to important information from council, they are likely to trust local government more.

A council serves a community and should first and foremost have the interests of that community at heart.

Mayor's say ...

The Ack Weyman Energy Challenge is still open and if you are part of a sports club, remember that your club could win \$1,000, \$500, or \$200 to buy sports gear by taking part in the challenge.

The challenge is part of Council's Community Building Sustainability Project which has been educating and supporting the community who use our 50 community buildings to help them reduce their energy costs.

The challenge is designed to help clubs save money on energy bills all you need to do to take part is nominate your club or group and fill out a survey by Monday, December 8.

The survey has 10 simple questions based on the 'Easy steps to

Helping our sports clubs

save power around your home' fact sheet. You can pick up the fact sheet and survey now from your club manager or download and complete it on Council's website, www.esc.nsw.gov.au.

If you enjoy walking your dog on our dog friendly beaches, I have been asked to remind you that the 24-hour off-season beach access arrangements for time share beaches finished on October 31.

Up until the end of April you can take your dog to these beaches between 5pm and 9am. Please check the signs at the main access points if you are not sure about where you can take your dogs.

Monday evening's community information session about the pro-

posal to fund a package of community and transport infrastructure projects through a special rate variation, was well attended and from my head count it looked like around 75 people came along.

Our next community session will be at the Turross Shopping Centre on Saturday, November 22 from 9am to 11am and this will be a drop in session so you can come anytime.

If you haven't been able to attend any of the sessions or market days and you have some questions, I encourage you to call our rate proposal hot line on 4474 7377 during business hours.

Or your questions may be answered from council's website where there is plenty of informa-

tion about the proposal, we council is considering it, what projects it could be used for and how it will impact you.

So once again, please send your feedback directly to council so we can consider it.

The most effective way is to send a submission via email to council@eurocoast.nsw.gov.au or a letter to council at PO Box 99, Moruya, NSW 2537.

Please let me know if there is any issue you feel Eurobodalla Shire Council may be able to help you with. You can email me at mayor@eurocoast.nsw.gov.au or phone me on 0418 279 215.

Cir Lindsay Brown
Mayor of Eurobodalla Shire

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

An apology

Thank you for your coverage of the launch of 'The Unreal Story of World War I & the NSW South Coast' (Narooma News November 5 and November 12).

It resulted in some stockists rapidly selling all their initial stocks and the entire print run, which would normally be sufficient for 12 months' demand, being completely exhausted in just 10 days!

My apologies to those unable to immediately purchase a copy.

A second print run has been ordered and the book should be back in all outlets next week.

It seems to me this has been a powerful example of the continuing effectiveness of local newspapers!

Peter Lacey
Queama

More networking

It's always a pity that accommodation providers do not find out who's open in the food supply business until the event time is over.

On checking with the local tourism office, they advised that they do not know what is open, when or where.

It does not make it easy to send or advise visitors to the area when places opening hours are unknown to all but themselves and guests return frustrated that they have to drive the town to find out themselves. Restaurants seem very unhelpful to help themselves at event times and it would seem they have a very relaxed approach with a "we are open or closed you work it out".

It would seem that networking is such an old thought, but Narooma maybe missing out by not taking it on board, with guests/visitors looking next time at a more proactive town's in a reduced dollar environment.

Kerry Challis
Narooma

Ongoing dog issues

I am writing after experiencing confrontations with dogs not on leads when I am taking my dog walking, and owners saying "Our dog is friendly!" but my dog does not know that.

I would like the Eurobodalla Council to please put more notices about public walkways stating that dogs should be on leads and that owners are expected to pick up after their dogs - not much use carrying a lead if it is not connected to the dog.

There are designated areas where dogs can be let off leash and they should be advertised.

There is a notice at the entrance to the walkway along Narooma Caravan Park to 'pick up after your dog' with a container that to my knowledge is always empty.

I walk along the Kianga walkway and do not see any signs, but plenty of dog fouling, as with the lovely Narooma boardwalk where dogs foul and their owner walks casually away.

When I travel to other towns I see signs, along with incentives clearly stating the requirement of the council re responsibility of dog owners.

Betty Greenhalghs
Narooma

Say no to rate rise!

In 2011 our council sought support for a similar huge increase to our rates.

This was emphatically opposed by the ratepayers and wasted a huge amount of time, money and consultancy fees.

The result was no rate rise variation so our council went ahead with big increases in all fees and charges. Check your water bill over the last five years.

Now on top of that they want another 26 per cent increase over the next three years. Our defence forces have been given 4.3 per cent over three years, teachers 7.5 per cent over three years and these are the lucky ones.

Our many pensioners and self-funded retirees are under pressure with low interest rates and pension cuts. Local businesses are doing it tough and will face bigger increases.

Councils get their CPI increases each year without question and this rate variation is just an obscene grab for cash.

When Joe Hockey announced changes to pensions in the federal budget our caring mayor and GM went straight to Canberra to protest on behalf of the large proportion of ratepayers in Eurobodalla that are pensioners.

Now they are pushing for a 26 per cent rate rise, one wonders who they represent.

Our share cries poor but continues to be over represented at conferences and pay above award salaries to staff.

A recent announcement stated over a \$1M surplus for council last year. Who needs a rate rise?

If funds are needed let's try cutting staff and expenses. Our mayor could stay home more often and use new technology to communicate.

The time taken by staff and the cost of the rate rise propaganda would have been better spent on sourcing funds from state and federal governments.

Community services could be pruned to those that are needed. Residents do not need council to show them how to ride a bike, or cook a meal or what to plant in the garden etc. This can be done by contacting a neighbour, watching TV or via the internet or through a local business.

It has disadvantaged so many residents and wasted so much of our rates with draconian LEP and sea level rise policies. It has stifled development with a negative approach to any building.

Council's increased fees and charges have spared no-one - even dog registration recently increased over 25 per cent.

It is vital people let council and our local member Andrew Constance know they are not in a position to pay for this variation to our rates, or in favour.

Council needs to work within its means like the rest of us do. If they cut the waste then a rate decrease would be possible next year.

Bruce Rapkins
Kianga

Footpath required

I have recently moved to Narooma from Queensland and have noticed that at the front of the busy Narooma Plaza shopping centre on the Princes Hwy (in front of the Garden Centre) 20-metre section of council footpath has been left unfinished and is full of sand and gravel or becomes muddy and slippery when wet.

I have been informed that it has been in this condition for over two years and only needs 20-metre section of concrete to be completed.

I have recently contacted the council regarding this matter and was told that there may be works planned for this area in the next couple years, and that they would not be completing this missing section until those works are undertaken.

As stated before, this busy area has been in this condition for a long period of time already and under the right conditions could be considered dangerous to elderly or frail people who use it regularly.

Trevor Smith
Narooma

To hope or not to hope

We Australians invested a lot of money in this G20 talk fest, half a billion dollars. It's not worth it.

Experience with past G20 summits tell most likely it will change little.

Mr Abbott's wish list of a two per cent growth in the economy might be a dream as the other leaders think so too.

Most likely they have a different approach than our present government and give it a try with a more environmentally friendly industry.

They now learned that we can't ignore climate in the equation.

I agree with the member of parliament Hoffmann wanting to deliver on the deal with China and provide them with much needed food is very limited to say the least.

I can recall from our early years in Australia what our government is planning to do in an area around Normanton could end up in a disaster.

Turning it in to a new cattle country?

That place is flat as far as the eye can see and had a flood metres high over a vast area for long time in 1973.

We don't really fully understand as yet to expect from a changing climate.

In the country of my birth we have the Ruhr industrial area with a high concentration of heavy industry. They had to rethink development of this place already 40 years ago. The polluted air was killing people then.

In California they worked on improving air quality years ago successfully.

China has to come up with an answer for its problem.

In the past and present the dirty industry came up with the idea to move to countries where they had less restrictive laws when it came to polluting.

I feel that industry which creates the pollution producing our goods have an obligation to do the right thing.

We are depending on them to not pollute. The world is coming close to a limit on much pollution it can afford.

K. Neil
Central T.

Council to make HuntFest amendment decision

Residents of Eurobodalla and surrounds who oppose HuntFest/Arms Fair have signed petitions, made presentations at shire council public forums, held meetings, contacted councillors, spoken on radio, addressed conservation groups, and sent letters to politicians and newspapers.

A formally drafted petition signed by 930 residents, was taken to the NSW Legislative Assembly by the local member, Andrew Constance.

This petition was tabled on the October 14, and is to be considered by the Minister for Crown Lands.

The petition to the Assembly reads in effect:

"We reject HuntFest on a number of grounds, including the absence of community consultation, and its negative social, cultural and economic impacts on the shire. We therefore ask the Legislative Assembly to rescind the approvals that presently enable Huntfest to take place on crown land, and thus put an end to the event".

Although in December last year the hunters had won approval for an Arms Fair at the 2014 HuntFest they were prevented at the last moment from selling guns; they could only display them. Now they have to go to council again, to get approval from them (for a licence variation that will allow them to sell guns).

A rally held in the foyer of the Eurobodalla Shire Council was attended by about protesters from all political parties. They then moved inside to the building to applaud Public Forum speeches that gave strong legal and moral reasons why the application to sell guns in a public building in the middle of town should be refused.

Inviting the community to make submissions on the sale of

guns is the first real concession ERA council members have given to community engagement, and the first sign that they may at last be listening. Hunters from all over Australia will make submissions and locals have to hope that councillors in their wisdom will attach greater importance to their electors when they make their decision for guns or no guns.

Around 80 per cent of the 200 submissions from residents opposed the addition of Gun sales to the "attractions" of HuntFest.

Will Council vote in favour of them, or will the gun lobby prevail?

We'll know just how democratic and accountable to the electors our council is when they vote on this amendment on the 25th this month!

Susan Crutenden
Dalmeny

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Letters to the Narooma News must be signed with the full name and address of the writer and a phone number if possible. Preference will be given to letters that meet a 300 word limit. The Narooma News reserves the right to edit letters. Send your letters to: "The Editor", Narooma News, PO Box 443 Narooma NSW 2546 or email: stan.gorton@fairfaxmedia.com.au

Tide turns at rates meeting

By CARMEN MCINTOSH

IT was standing room only at Batemans Bay Library on Monday night for Eurobodalla Shire Council's third and final information session on its proposed special rate rise.

About 75 residents attended to hear council management explain the proposal; a figure in stark contrast to the 13 who attended both the Moruya and Narooma meetings.

Question time was largely dominated by sea-level rise issues, with many residents concerned about the effects of council policy on their property values.

One resident even went as far as asking whether council would compensate residents with homes in sea-level rise investigation areas, and floated the idea of a class action.

When it came to the proposed rates rise, only a handful of residents approved, including Batemans Bay community fundraiser Charles Stuart.

"At the risk of being the odd one out here, I believe in a special rate increase, I want to live in a progressive society and not a regressive society," Mr Stuart said.

"I don't want to argue about potholes - I want to see us go ahead, I want to see more facilities."

"One of the things that I am trying to do with council is to build a



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larger, disability playground at Corrigans Beach - I offered \$400,000 to the council, which I believe I can raise, and they said 'we like your motivation, we like your vision, we can't afford to take that on because we are going to be up for the replacement of that in 20 years time'."

"Please don't let your society go down the drain, because that's

where it's headed."

One resident said she was of the view everyone in the room wanted to live in a progressive society.

"I think everyone here would like to see a better Eurobodalla. It's a pathetic sight to drive over the bridge and come into Batemans Bay," she said.

"What gets to me over the years is the waste that I have seen ... I

haven't seen a really efficient use of ratepayers' money. If we go into this rate rise, what are we going to see?"

On December 9, council will decide whether or not to apply for the rise.

In the meantime, council is calling for residents to make submissions to councillors detailing their views.

Proposed rate increase totals 26%

By CARMEN MCINTOSH

RATES bills will not fall at the end of the three-year special rate rise period, council's infrastructure services director Warren Sharpe clarified on Monday night.

At Monday night's meeting at Batemans Bay Library, residents expressed confusion over whether rates bills would return to their original amount after the three years.

Infrastructure services director Warren Sharpe clarified this was not the case.

He said the rise, including annual increases recommended by the state government under rate

pegging, added up to "just under 26 per cent after three years" and was ongoing.

"The SRV is cumulative and then gets to a point, and then the rate pegging (annual rate rises) applies after that point so it doesn't go up and then come back, it essentially continues on," Mr Sharpe said.

The 5 per cent special increase for three years is expected to raise \$3.85 million per annum for council by year three and \$7.4 million in total over the three years.

This would be spent on a range of infrastructure projects across the shire, estimated to be worth about \$17 million.

An additional \$1.2 million would be put aside each year to fund ongoing renewals.

The proposed infrastructure projects were identified as priorities in the council's recreation and open space strategy, which was compiled in consultation with the community.

Mr Sharpe said council would borrow funds to complete the works within a four-year period, and that the perpetual income generated from the higher rate base would pay off the loan.

Funds for maintenance and operation of the facilities, as well as their replacement and depreciation, were factored in, he said.



Eurobodalla Shire Council's infrastructure services director Warren Sharpe addresses Monday night's meeting.

OYSTERS STOLEN

POLICE say between 12,000 and 20,000 Pacific oysters were stolen from farms on the Clyde River at Batemans Bay between November 7 and November 17.

A Far South Coast local area command police spokesman said that if anyone has any information they should call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

DRIVER NEGLIGENT

A 51-year-old man was given an infringement notice for negligent driving after rolling his Land Cruiser on the Kings Highway at Mongo on Saturday afternoon.

The man was driving west on the highway at 2pm when he lost control of his vehicle which rolled then slid 50 metres on its roof before hitting an embankment.

The airbags inflated but the man freed himself and did not suffer any serious injury.

An off-duty State Emergency Services volunteer was driving past and helped him until police and other SES volunteers arrived.

LEARNER CHARGED

A 16-YEAR-OLD Broulee learner driver will appear in Batemans Bay Local Court on December 8 after he was caught drink-driving and driving without a qualified driver.

The teen was seen driving in a car park in Batemans Bay and police caught up with him on the Old Princes Highway.

A breath-test was positive and he was arrested and taken to Batemans Bay Police Station.

After a breath analysis he was charged with driving with a novice range prescribed concentration of alcohol, less than 0.02, and driving not in the company of a qualified driver.

UTE STOLEN

A TOYOTA Hi-Lux ute was stolen from a property at Northcove Road, Long Beach, on Monday night.

The matter was reported to police, who are investigating. Anyone with information should call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

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Registered tax agent and tax consultant located in Suite 24, Fenning Arcade, Orient Street, Batemans Bay.

Bay Post MORUYA (1)

Broulee community identifies different priorities

By EMILY BARTON

Nov. 19, 2014, 4 a.m.



PATH PLEASE: Broulee/Mossy Point Community Association executive member Andrew Bain and president Ross Hayward want the pathway from Broulee extended to the North Head campground.

THE Broulee/Mossy Point Community Association will call on council to change the list of community infrastructure priorities set out in the Funding our Future brochure.

The brochure lists infra-structure projects which Eurobodalla Shire Council would fund if the proposed special rate rise is successful.

Council's list of priorities for the Broulee/Mossy Point community are the Candlagan Bridge upgrade, Captain Oldrey Park expansion and accessible toilets on Coronation Drive.

Broulee/Mossy Point Community Association executive member Andrew Bain does not remember council asking the community what it wanted out of the proposed special rate variation.

He said the first priority for the community would be the extension of the existing gravel path to the North Head camp- ground, which currently ends at the airport windsock.

"We would like to see that path extended so people can ride all the way to the river," Mr Bain said.

"This has been raised with council a lot of times.

"We don't want a concrete bike path or anything, just a simple gravel path that you can ride a bike along."

Another issue for the community is the extension of the shared pathway from Beach Road along Annetts Parade to Surfside Avenue.

Mr Bain was advised the new section would only be 1.5 metres wide and for pedestrians only, not bicycles.

"I think it is silly," Mr Bain said.

"You have got a path that is so far shared all the way from South Broulee to Beach Road and is used by lots of children who ride their bikes on it.

"To suddenly make the path not legally a shared path is silly."

The third priority the association is for the relandscaping around the toilets and viewing platform on Coronation Drive.

"If the area was relandscaped the disabled would be able to access the viewing platform," Mr Bain said.

"We would like to see the Boardriders' work to decorate the toilets kept."

He said the association would keep these as priorities, regardless of the special rates variation.

Mr Bain said although the Candlagan Bridge was in need of fixing, he believed it should, if not already, be included in the current works program.

"Council has known the bridge has needed to be fixed for a while and should have it in its current works program," he said.

"Whether it is fixed or not should not be reliant on the rate rise."

Mr Bain said that at the November 13 association meeting people were bemused about the Captain Oldrey Park expansion.

"As far as the community's view, people seem to think it already has the capacity to do what it is supposed to," Mr Bain said.

"A lot of trees would have to be bulldozed to expand it, it is a major exercise.

"This has never been raised by the community."

The association will write a letter to council outlining its concerns and will meet with council's director of infrastructure services Warren Sharpe at the end of November to discuss the cycleway to North Head.

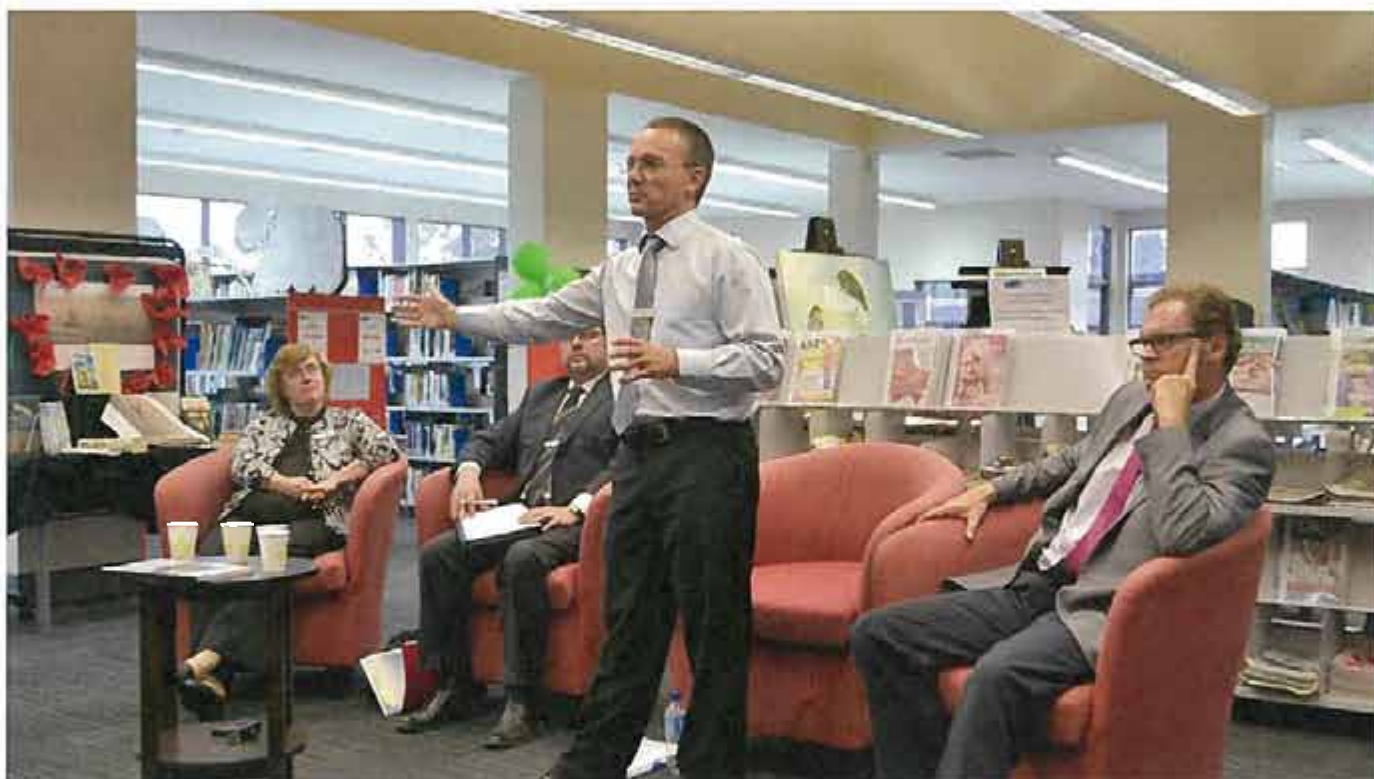
"We do not want the money from a rate rise wasted," Mr Bain said.

The Broulee/Mossy Point Community Association president Ross Hayward agreed it was time to revise some of the priorities listed in council's brochure.

Proposed rate increase totals 26%

By CARMEN McINTOSH

Nov. 18, 2014, 2:34 p.m.



Eurobodalla Shire Council's infrastructure services director Warren Sharpe addresses Monday night's meeting.

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The proposed infrastructure projects were identified as priorities in the council’s Recreation and open space strategy, which was compiled in consultation with the community.

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Related coverage: [Tide turns at rates meeting](#)

[\(http://www.batemansbaypost.com.au/story/2704526/tide-turns-at-rates-meeting/?cs=229\)](http://www.batemansbaypost.com.au/story/2704526/tide-turns-at-rates-meeting/?cs=229)

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Bay Post MORUYA (/)

Batemans Bay Eurobodalla Shire rate rise meeting well attended

By CARMEN McINTOSH

Nov. 18, 2014, 2:30 p.m.



GOOD TURNOUT: About 75 people attended Eurobodalla Shire Council's Batemans Bay information session on its proposed special rates variation on Monday night.

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One resident even went as far as asking whether council would be compensating local residents with homes in sea-level rise investigation areas, and floated the idea of a class action.

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"I don't want to argue about potholes - I want to see us go ahead, I want to see more facilities.

"One of the things that I am trying to do with council is to build a larger, disability playground at Corrigans Beach - I offered \$400,000 to the council, which I believe I can raise, and they said 'we like your motivation, we like your vision, we can't afford to take that on because we are going to be up for the replacement of that in 20 years time'.

"Please don't let your society go down the drain, because that's where it's headed."

One resident said she was of the view everyone in the room wanted to live in a progressive society.

"I think everyone here would like to see a better Eurobodalla. It's a pathetic sight to drive over the bridge and come into Batemans Bay," she said.

"What gets to me is over the years is the waste that I have seen... I haven't seen a really efficient use of ratepayer's money. If we go into this rate rise, what are we going to see?"

The council will consider whether to apply for the rise on December 9.

In the meantime, council is calling for residents to make submissions to councillors detailing their views.

Related coverage: Proposed rate increase totals 26%

(<http://www.batemansbaypost.com.au/story/2704546/proposed-rate-increase-totals-26/?cs=229>)

From the Editor's desk

WE have heard it time and time again.

Regional areas, in particular the Eurobodalla, are screaming out for federal funding at a time when the Treasurer's purse strings are tight.

We need more facilities for the homeless, more government investment to encourage jobs, dedicated specialist health services, more affordable housing and improved infrastructure, to name a few.

But when it comes to disability services in this region, no family should have to leave their hometown due to inequitable access to quality care and therapy.

The Eurobodalla Education and Therapy Services committee is not the first to float the idea of a disability services centre for children, from birth to 18.

A similar concept has run in Queanbeyan for decades, known as the Queanbeyan Children's Special Needs Group.

What started as a support network for one mother of a child with Down syndrome expanded over the years to meet the changing needs of children.

It provides early learning groups, transition to school, an information service and advice, and therapy through a consortium of professionals - all from a centrally located, council provided, hub.

It would be a concept well suited to this area, given the hundreds of families facing challenges similar to those of Sally, Nick and Frankie every day.

A promise of "research" from Eden-Monaro MP Peter Hendy is adequate only if it is followed by real action which results in better outcomes for our local families.

Because if there is one thing more worthy of investment than anything else, it is our children.

VOX POP: Should Russia apologise for the shooting down of Malaysia Airlines' flight MH17?



Karen Brodrick
BATEMANS BAY
"Absolutely, and compensation should be forthcoming."



Richard Eberhard
GUERRILLA BAY
"If they are guilty, yes."



Col Hurt
BATEMANS BAY
"If Russian-backed rebels shot it down, then I guess they should."



Judy Buchattan
LONG BEACH
"Most definitely, although Abbott should have gone about it a bit differently."



Toly Johnston
BRAIDWOOD
"Putin should say he feels sorry for what's occurred and, if Russia is responsible, then he should apologise."

Asbestos danger not over

DURING Asbestos Awareness Month me and my fellow ambassadors Cherie Barber, Don Burke, Scott Cam, Barry Du Bois and Scott McGregor speak with one voice to all Australians about the dangers of asbestos to homeowners, renovators, tradies and handymen in the hope they will hear our potentially life-saving message.

For those who think asbestos-related diseases are a thing of the past, think again.

There is no safe level of exposure to asbestos fibres and, if breathed in, they have the potential to cause mesothelioma, a deadly cancer that can take 20 to 50 years to develop.

There is no cure and people have a very short life expectancy - just 10 to 12 months after diagnosis.

I lost a good mate, Harold Hopkins, to mesothelioma because he breathed in asbestos fibres when he was a young bloke on building sites, so I know first-hand how dangerous asbestos can be.

Asbestos can be found in at least one in three

Australian homes and it doesn't matter what kind of house you live in - brick, weatherboard, clad or fibro.

So, if it was built or renovated before 1987, it will most likely contain asbestos.

Australians need to think smart, think safe and get to know asbestos this November by visiting asbestosawareness.com.au because it's not worth the risk.

John Jarratt
Ambassador
Asbestos Awareness Month Campaign

Timely reminder

SUMMER is almost here and while it is a great time to enjoy the leisure activities the South Coast offers in abundance, I was also pleased to see youth taking to the field in team sports on Saturday.

I drove from Narooma on Saturday to Batemans Bay, and saw two junior cricket clubs taking part in their morning activities.

We were warned this week of the dangers of playing in the sun by the great Richie Benaud, who

announced he was receiving treatment for skin cancers on the top of his head and forehead.

It's a timely reminder for everyone, and not only the shire's cricketers, that we should be protecting ourselves with Slip, Slop, Slap!

Wilson Jones
Batemans Bay

A never-ending charge

RECENTLY, Eurobodalla Shire Council posted a letter to residents as part of its consultative and justification process in relation to a proposed compounding general rate increase.

If supported by the IPART, the increase won't terminate at the end of three years but continue on indefinitely at a compounding annual amount.

The proposed rate rise being talked about is in addition to all the other fees and charges council requires of its ratepayers.

The other fees and charges are unregulated, able to be increased by a council decision - just as some would like to see the general rate charge.

Other fees and charges identified on the rates notice may, in some cases, amount to 75 per cent or more of the bill.

The proposed general rate increase has, to date, been very poorly explained to the shire's ratepayers and residents.

Alan Brown
Batemans Bay

Road to nowhere

FROM time to time an announcement is made about another load of dollars to be spent on the Kings Highway.

Over the past few years, with the exception of the huge expenditure on the sections at Rotary Drive, and the diversion at Kowan, the highway has not changed much at all.

It still has narrow winding sections and sections with a poor surface, temporary surface patches quickly disintegrate, on goes another thin layer, and so the cycle continues.

Much is now being spent on the latest fad, the beautification of the roadsides.

On the section west of Batemans Bay to Clyde

Mountain, trees are being mulched and lovely grassed verges are emerging in the spring rains, so motorists should be aware that grazing wallabies and kangaroos will be bounding towards the feast of lush grass.

The NRMA's local board representative, Alan Evans, is always banging on to nobody in particular about the Kings Highway being on the list of the state's worst roads but he's barking up the wrong tree.

Basically, there's nothing wrong with the highway; the biggest problem is the people who drive on it.

For a start, he should tackle the RMS for wasting so much money on poor repairs - wherein lies much of the problem - as well as the twits who drive on it.

But then, some of those twits are most probably paid-up members of the NRMA.

Iane Thurston
Nelligen

BACKWARD GLANCE

Front page news five years ago



Bay Post

A sage's view on sea-level rise

IT seems that old bugbear legal liability is coming into the Local Government debate on sea level rise (or should it be ruse?).

Councillors seem to be being influenced by the idea that should they vote for a lower than prescribed sea-level rise they may, in say 25 years' time, be taken through the Courts for damage to property should it rise by more than that.

There is another side to that coin, as there is to most... should the sea level not rise to the degree covered by legislation, could property owners take councillors to court for subsequent, and unjustified, loss of property values?

Either way, some councillors may be influenced to vote for legislation they don't believe in because of

that perceived legal threat, or not vote for what they see as a reasonable outcome for the same reason.

Some years ago the bogey of "surcharge" was raised in Eurobodalla Shire Council.

Councillors were told that if their decisions resulted in a situation that caused loss of property, limb or life they could be

made to pay, with money.

After that went on for some time it was found that for that to happen a councillor would have to vote for the legislation KNOWING it was going to have that result.

That was based on common law, and that situation must still exist.

Eric Wiseman
Moruya

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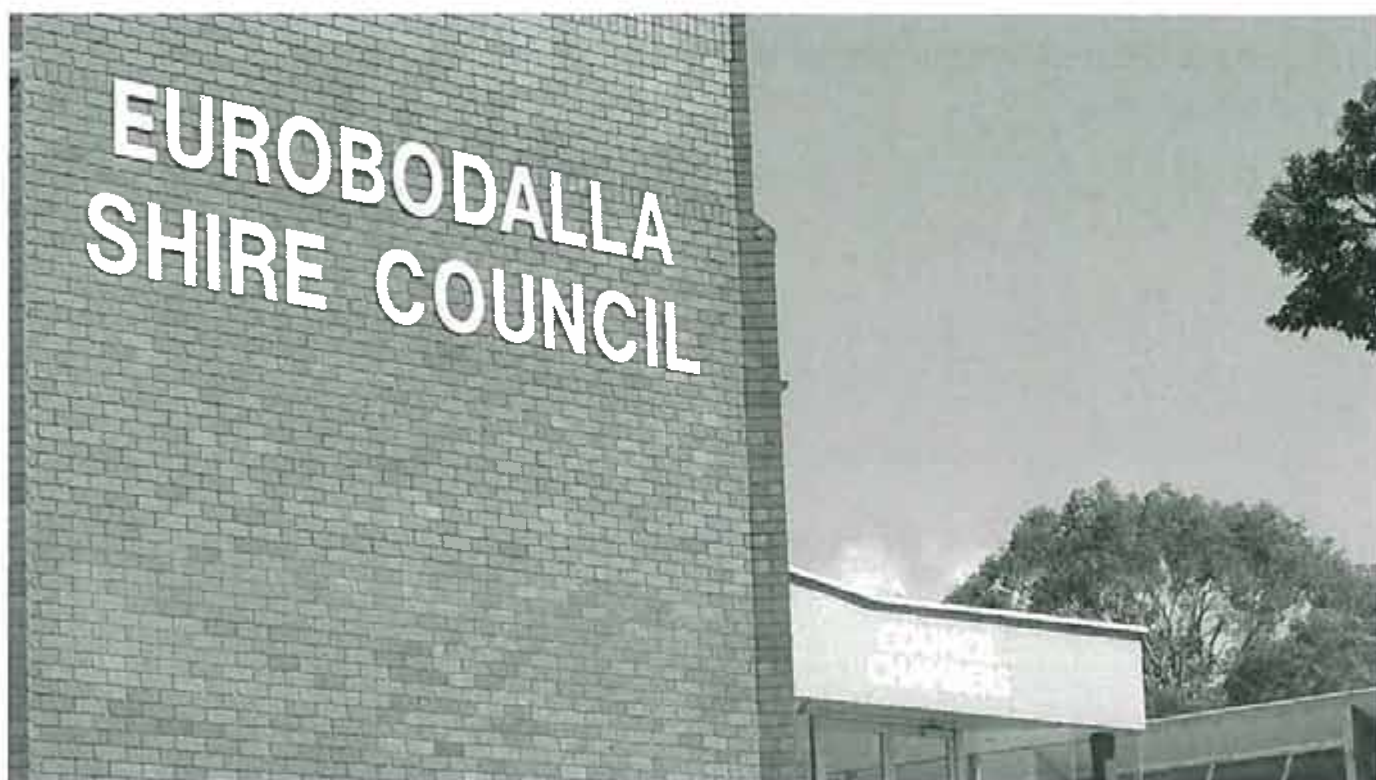
Bay Post MORUYA (/)

Council: Invested funds needed

By CARMEN McINTOSH

Nov. 13, 2014, 5:13 p.m.

EUROBODALLA Shire Council says "much" of its \$74 million investment balance is "restricted".



The *Bay Post/Moruya Examiner* questioned the funds this week off the back of concerns from the community regarding the council's proposal for an extra annual 5 per cent rates increase, compounding for three years, on top of annual CPI increases.

The decision to apply for the increase, known as a special rate variation, will be considered by councillors on December 9.

If approved, the extra funds generated from the rise would be spent on a \$17 million backlog of infrastructure projects.

In an emailed statement, council's finance director Anthony O'Reilly said of the \$74 million, \$49 million was restricted.

This included \$21 million in the water and sewer funds, which could only be spent on water and sewer activities, for example.

"The remaining \$26 million is unrestricted which means it is available for day-to-day operations, and to meet council's current liabilities of \$31 million," he said.

"These liabilities must also be taken into account as they need to be settled in the short term.

"It is council's assessment that the amount of cash held for operational needs is conservative."

100 YEARS AGO

Moruya Examiner

Extracts from the files of the Moruya Examiner established in 1884

SHIRE-WIDE news extracts from the Moruya Examiner of this time in 1914, provided by the Moruya and District Historical Society.

COASTAL FARMERS' ASSOCIATION - Mr H Sharpe, an officer connected with the Coastal Farmers' Cooperative Society, is now journeying down the far South Coast enlightening the Directors and others connected with cheese and butter factories as to the best mode of transport. Mr Sharpe informed a representative of this paper that the production of cheese is at present far greater than the local consumption, and that unless exported much of it will have to be destroyed. We feel sure that producers will be studying their own interests by encouraging as great an export as possible and thus save a slump in their own home market. Late sale reports go to show that the war authorities are, or have agreed to purchase Australian cheese for the soldiers, which should be encouraging news to our factories. 7/11/1914

BIG LOG - Messrs Alf Crapp and Harry Waters drew into the wharf on Tuesday, for shipment to Sydney, a box log 11ft in girth and weighing 8 tons. This is easily, we think, the biggest log that has been drawn into town by one carriage since the firm commenced hauling, and it will be a fine test for the Bodalla winch and wire rope. 21/11/1914

THE SEASON - Unquestionably this is the best season that South Coasters have been blessed with for many, many years past. Some of our oldest residents proclaim it to be the best for the last 40 years. All the dairy factories are getting record supplies, owing to the abundance of grass everywhere, and if our dairymen are frugal and stack their silos for the winter, their banking accounts should soon be worth having. 21/11/1914

PROGRESS SOCIETY - One of Moruya's greatest wants is a really LIVE Progress Society. 21/11/1914

LAUNCH RUNS regularly to the Heads on Sundays and Wednesdays at 2.30 pm 1/- return. 21/11/1914

THE SS BENANDRA arrived in Moruya early yesterday morning, and is to leave direct for Sydney at 9 o'clock this (Saturday) morning. 21/11/1914

OUR PICTURES - Ever on the alert to entertain our pleasure seekers, Mr Weatherly, the up-to-date proprietor of the Empire Picture Palace, has secured the right of producing the first picture of the present war. He will release it at the Palace 800 feet of film from the front, together with a 4000 feet drama entitled Court Zarka. 21/11/1914

EGG DAY! - The hon sec of the Red Cross Society wishes us to remind all those who desire to assist in nourishing the wounded soldiers in the London and Europe Hospitals, that the last day for receiving eggs is Tuesday next, the 24th inst. There must be a lot of nourishing and curative properties in the little egg, for we remember once hearing a nurse, when mixing up a decoction for a patient, remark: "When I put a egg into his hit will be good for anything." Let us all think of the brave soldiers who went to the front with their lives in their hands in order to defend our hearths and homes, and now lying sick unto death in hospitals. 21/11/1914

Sixteen 100 Years Ago booklets containing articles for the years 1899 to 1913 are available (\$5 each) from the society's rooms. Copies of local newspapers from the 1860s to date can be viewed at the society's Family History Research Centre (PH 4474 3224) situated at the rear of the Pioneer Museum in Campbell St. Moruya (mndhs.org.au).

Young musicians touched by talent

ST CECILIA has long been regarded as the Patron Saint of Music and Musicians.

The celebration of her festival day, November 22, by musical performances has been the practice in Europe for many centuries.

Recognising the disadvantages that music students in the shire face compared with their metropolitan counterparts, the Eurobodalla St Cecilia Music Scholarship association was formed in 1995 to encourage young musicians.

Every year in October, a set of auditions with independent adjudicators is held for music students aged from eight to 18, and 10 scholarships are awarded, from \$100 merit awards to scholarships worth \$1000.

One of these scholarships is the Maria de Rocco prize, named after the founder of the association.

Following the auditions an award winners' concert is held in November, as close as

possible to St Cecilia's day, at which the scholarship holders receive their awards and, together with guest musicians, play in front of a public audience.

The scholarships can only be spent on items or services that further the student's musical education.

Initially, the awards were restricted to students from the Eurobodalla Shire but as interest in the scholarships spread to neighbouring shires, the St Cecilia Scholarships' committee changed its constitution a few years ago to encompass a larger area.

The association receives an annual grant from Eurobodalla Shire Council's arts budget of about \$2000 and the remaining scholarship costs, as well as all operating costs, are funded by entrance fees and charges for the auditions and concert, and by generous donations from the public.

St Cecilia Scholarships continues to



This year's crop of talented St Cecilia Music Scholarships' finalists (from left) Tara Watts, Jessica Hughes, Chloe Watts, Ayden McDonald, Ike Read and Melissa Pradmuang. Absent are Sean Douglas, Ruby de Rover, Sierra Gharman, and Elodie de Rover.

explore new ways to enrich the musical experiences of young musicians - in 2003 it commenced a visiting artists program.

Experienced musicians are brought to Batemans Bay from Canberra or Sydney to present a Saturday master class or con-

duct workshops on a particular instrument.

Seven such classes have been held - for piano, voice, guitar and wind instruments.

Following the classes, the invited musicians perform an evening recital for donors and supporters, and, on occasions, the

public.

This year the finalists' concert will be held on November 23, at 4.30pm, at St Bernard's Church, Watehaven.

Admission is \$5, \$10 family, at the door.

These concerts are standing ovation performances - don't miss this one.

Responding to community requests



LAST week I explained some facts and figures about council's proposal to fund community and transport infrastructure projects and works through a special rate variation. In the past week I have enjoyed talking with many residents about the proposal at the community information sessions in Narooma and Moruya libraries, at Moruya Markets and in my usual weekly meetings with community groups. Next Monday another session will be held at Batemans Bay Library at 5pm and I encourage people to attend if they need more

details and want to ask questions. We will also be at Batemans Bay High School markets on Sunday.

It's important to remember that council has not yet made a decision on whether or not it will apply for a rate variation and these community meetings will help us make that decision in December.

Please let us know your views by email or letter to council. Comments made on social media and to newspapers and community and business groups can't be accepted as submissions, so if you have something to say, make it count by letting us know directly.

I have been asked how council came up with the proposal and the list of projects. The journey to consider a rate variation started earlier in the year

when councillors faced the challenge of how to provide new infrastructure projects the community was asking for and also maintain and renew current infrastructure at an acceptable standard.

The community has been letting council know about the community and transport infrastructure it expects council to provide since 2011, when council started developing the Eurobodalla community strategic plan.

Since then council has received feedback on its annual operational plans, four-year delivery plans, recreation and open space strategy, shared pathway strategy, road safety strategic plan and other plans that involve infrastructure.

In the past few years council has made significant savings and plans to ensure this con-

tinues. Savings have been made by improving procurement and asset management practice, improving productivity, regularly reviewing service delivery and safety practice, using better work practices and technologies and collaborating with neighbouring councils, the ACT, NSW and federal governments, and building regional partnerships.

Despite this, we still don't have enough funds to continue to provide the current standard of infrastructure and services, and deliver the new projects the community has asked for.

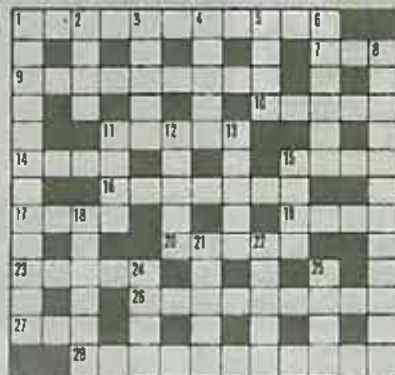
A special rate variation is a way that the community can consider funding these works.

If there is any issue you feel council may be able to help you with, email me at mayor@eurocoast.nsw.gov.au or phone 0418 279 215.

Two-way Crossword No 3011

THE HARD WAY

- Across**
- 1 Imp-possibly naughty! (11)
 - 7 Silver ring in the past (3)
 - 9 It's making noise in cover, wanting to lose the sun! (5, 4)
 - 10 His produced in Common Market is maul (5)
 - 11 Tenacity left with relief (5)
 - 14 Section of hotel seems otherwise! (4)
 - 15 Bit of a nasty experience for viewers (4)
 - 16 ... can be thinking (7)
 - 17 Stuff in newspaper: that's instated? (4)
 - 19 Help a criminal with a wager (4)
 - 20 Shabby bike race into river (5)
 - 23 Hazard to plane that takes the cake (5)
 - 25 Be quick and appear to have the edge (4, 5)
 - 27 It finishes list amongst Soviet communists (3)
 - 28 Approval shown on licence after offence? (11)
- Down**
- 1 Cockney actor i.e. mechanical in
 - 2 Bad weather's coming from the south today (4)
 - 3 Hard border? No, it consists of shrubs (5)
 - 4 The old rock star lives in another guise (5)
 - 5 Man-eater's in the bog? Really! (4)
 - 6 Little bag gets squashed in a chest (6)
 - 8 Here you'll see musicians of mine? (9, 3)
 - 11 Tax needed to raise troops (4)
 - 12 A doctor has it to give scope (5)
 - 13 Precise old law (5)
 - 15 Don't go for one in pig enclosure (4)
 - 16 Pop member of the royal family? (6)
 - 21 Mum's upset over our love affair (5)
 - 22 Try a bit in terrible state (5)
 - 24 Putting on little weight, boy is pleased! (4)
 - 25 Funeral party at the stem of ship? (4)



SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD 3010

ACROSS: 1 Cash, 3 Epistles, 9 Eternal, 10 Aply, 11 Take the floor, 13 Outlaw, 15 Lounge, 17 Substantiate, 20 China, 21 Fan mail, 22 By the way, 23 Feed
DOWN: 1 Creation, 2 Speak, 4 Pelmet, 5 Small fortune, 6 Let down, 7 Sky, 8 Initial stage, 12 Levelled, 14 Tourist, 16 Raffle, 18 Adage, 19 Scab

THE EASY WAY

- Across**
- 1 Playfully naughty (11)
 - 7 In the past (3)
 - 9 Become overcast (5, 4)
 - 10 Moral principle (5)
 - 11 Tenant's agreement (5)
 - 14 Other, different (4)
 - 15 Eyesore (4)
 - 16 Trembling, thrilling (7)
 - 17 To forgo (4)
 - 19 Assist in a crime (4)
 - 20 Wom out, shabby (5)
 - 23 Sugar coating on cake (5)
 - 25 Hurry up! (4, 5)
 - 27 And so on (3)
 - 28 Approval or support (11)
- Down**
- 1 Cockney film star (7, 5)
 - 2 rogan rain (4)
 - 3 Barrier of shrubs (5)
 - 4 American rock star (5)
 - 5 A ... (4)
 - 6 Small plastic envelope (8)
 - 8 Space for musicians in theatre (9, 3)
 - 11 Government tax (4)
 - 12 Scope or extent (5)
 - 13 Precise (5)
 - 15 Remain (4)
 - 18 Monarch's son (6)
 - 21 Love affair (5)
 - 22 Ravour (5)
 - 24 Happy (4)
 - 25 Rouse from sleep (4)

Target Word 3011

HOW many words of four letters or more can you make from the letters shown here? In making a word, each letter may be used once only. Each must contain the centre letter and there must be at least one nine-letter word. No plurals.



Today's target: Good: 12 words Very good: 18 words Excellent: 24 words

SOLUTION TO TARGET WORD 3010

ENDORSEMENT her head here heron take head leader sure there head hose hand hope hoped horse horn horned upon phone phoned runs

News Business

BayPost MORUYA (1)

Eurobodalla Shire Council rate rise information session attracts 13

By CARMEN McINTOSH

Nov. 12, 2014, 7:30 a.m.



Just 13 resident attended the meeting at the Moruya Library.

RELATED CONTENT: [Northern residents reject SRV](#)

<http://www.batemansbaypost.com.au/story/2689091/northern-residents-reject-srv-poll/?cs=229>

JUST 13 residents turned up on Monday night to hear Eurobodalla Shire Council leaders explain their case for council's proposed rate rise.

General manager Catherine Dale, mayor Lindsay Brown, infrastructure services director Warren Sharpe, planning director Lindsay Usher, tourism and communications manager Catherine Reilly, and several other members of staff attended the meeting designed to help residents understand the special rate variation (SRV) and provide feedback.

The 5 per cent increase, if approved, will compound over three years, and, if an annual rate peg rise of 3 per cent is also applied, average ratepayers will pay about \$212 more on their annual bill by 2017-18.

Council plans to use the extra funds on a range of new and backlogged infrastructure projects.

The council meeting was held after more than 100 residents gathered at Long Beach on Saturday to protest the rise, unanimously voting to send the council a clear message: We don't want a rate variation.

Do you support council's proposed rate rise?

Yes

No

[Vote](#) [View Results](#)

At the Moruya meeting on Monday, residents were open to discussing the challenges faced by local government and at least two supported the rise.

However, many expressed concern about how pensioners and those on fixed incomes would accommodate the impost.

Batemans Bay's Ray Stabler said that with the increased cost of living on top of the rate rise, pensioners would find it difficult to make ends meet.

"Pensions are fixed," he said.

"You can't go and ask Centrelink for an increase in pension. So what you have to do is you cut back... and there is a limit to how much you can cut back.

"I'm extremely angry with this council in actually putting this proposal forward, and I will vote against it."

Dr Dale said that just as residents were facing increasing costs in living, so too was council, after years of rate pegging by the state government.

"Even if the (annual rate) increases are 3 per cent, you often find the building costs are going up 4 per cent," she said.

"You talk about electricity and power – council pays for the street lights, so suddenly we have got a 74 per cent increase that we need to find.

"That's why we've come to the community with the potential special rate variation because we're like ducks – we're paddling madly but just staying afloat."

Neal Gray, from Campbelltown, pays rates on his family holiday home at South Durras.

He attended the meeting and supported the proposition.

"The information that has come out tonight is that you really care about the area and you want the best," he said.

"As far as having a \$200 increase in rates, even though I'm on part pension, and it's for our family holiday place, I think that's really quite reasonable compared to the rates you're going to pay elsewhere.

"If you don't have infrastructure in the local area, people won't come. Your businesses will die... if you don't maintain the parks, the shops, everything, people will go elsewhere."

Dr Dale made it clear council had not made a decision on whether to apply to the state government to implement the increase.

She said the council had gone to great lengths to consult with the community, including establishing a dedicated website, a hotline, undertaking a telephone survey, writing to ratepayers and holding a series of information sessions.

"We're trying to engage as many people as possible in relation to this issue," she said.

Another council information session will be held at the Batemans Bay Library on Monday.

From the Editor's desk

COMMUNITY engagement is a funny thing. It's a requirement for councils to give the community the opportunity to have their say.

Unfortunately it is one which few residents take up.

The council is in the process of consulting with the community over its proposed special rate rise of 5 per cent, compounding each year, for three years.

There is no room for apathy; residents need to have their say on whether they support it or whether they don't.

Council says that the rate rise will fund infrastructure new and old.

Decades of rate rise limits imposed by the state government have left the council with a backlog of work - bridges that need to be fixed, playgrounds that need to be brought up to standard, decaying sporting facilities and a pool that needs to be replaced.

Residents might have already noticed playgrounds disappearing as the council moves to lower maintenance costs.

Council's list of community infrastructure to benefit from the proposed rise is long and they are projects that would benefit the community longer term.

But quality infrastructure comes at a cost - a cost which the council estimates to be about \$212 a household more each year by 2017-18 - just over \$4 a week.

It might seem insignificant when the figure is drilled down, but for those on fixed incomes every dollar counts.

It's a figure - when given the choice - many would prefer not to pay.

Whichever side you are on, nobody can say that Eurobodalla Shire Council did not endeavour to consult the community on this issue.

The council has personally addressed letters to every ratepayer, created a dedicated website and telephone hotline, undertaken an independent random telephone survey, and run a range of information sessions (which so far, have been poorly attended).

Putting forward your views is the only way to educate your councillors on how you would like them to vote on whether to apply for the increase.

Time is running out to have your say.

> VOX POP: How do you and your family like to enjoy the great outdoors?



Corn Jones

NOWRA
"We've got a motor home and everything is self-contained, so we can go wherever we like."



Ronay Temple

DENHAM'S BEACH
"We stay in cabins, but we are open to new suggestions."



Chris Fielden

BERRY
"We have a caravan and we love coming down the coast."



Debbie Bull

TERMEIL
"As long as we are outdoors, it doesn't matter. We camp in tents but we are looking at other options."



Nick Brice

TUROSS HEAD
"We've got a caravan and we like to go to remote areas with the least number of people."

Sparkle urgently needed

MORUYA Chamber of Commerce is in desperate need of someone who is accredited by Essential Energy to put up our Christmas decorations.

Our volunteers who have put up the lights for the past 18 years do not have the qualifications that are now needed.

Our Christmas decorations are widely appreciated by the many families in the community who come to town to see them as well as the house lights.

The Chamber needs someone as soon as possible - we must put a name on the application we now need to send to Essential Energy so the decorations can go up.

If anyone can help, please contact me on 0410 094 450.

Tubby Harrison
Vice-president
Moruya Business Chamber

Sharp questions

I KNOW I'm not the sharpest tool in the shed, but I'm having trouble understanding what the mayor, Lindsay Brown, is saying when he says that

council requires indemnity from the state government before it can tackle the rising sea-level problem.

Is he saying that Shoalhaven and Bega have been given this indemnity and that's why they can move on the problem or is he saying that they don't need indemnity, but our shire does for some reason, or is he saying that council is the only one that can see problems where others do not?

And his comment that the planning department was not singing from the same page as the minister is difficult to understand as well.

Does he mean that the minister is misleading his department or that his department is misleading the minister?

And why does Eurobodalla Shire Council see legislative requirements where other councils do not?

Are all those councils acting illegally?

Shoalhaven Shire Council, acting on the same report as Eurobodalla Shire Council, passed its planning policy by nine votes to two, which is a pretty fair majority and a pretty quick result.

How did Eurobodalla end up with a bitterly divided council with the mayor sid-

ing predominantly with one group against the other?

Is this because Shoalhaven councillors are capable of working together on important issues or is it because the mayor is inclusive and can work with all the elected representatives of his much larger shire to get results that benefit the residents?

Strangely, in spite of Eurobodalla having committed councillors and such well-paid, highly professional council staff, Bega and Shoalhaven shires are going ahead while it is falling away.

Michael Johnson
Tuross Head

Expert debate

MAYOR Lindsay Brown says that council's sea-level rise interim policy is necessary (*Bay Post*, November 7).

True science and the results of council's governance tell a different story.

Eurobodalla Shire Council was given the flexibility to consider coastal hazards in the context of local circumstances.

I selected Whitehead and Associates to prepare a framework to justify retaining its interim policy.

The framework is found-

ed on guesswork - computer-based speculations of future rates of global temperature or sea-level changes - five times greater than in the 20th century.

Eighty-five per cent of the 79 responses from the community rejected the framework.

One submission (Carter, et al) was from 11 international climate scientists, who, having seen both the consultant's framework and response to submissions, said that "their process is 100 per cent broken . . . there is no scientific justification for their preordained opinions".

CSIRO scientist Dr John Church, the co-ordinating lead author of the sea levels chapter of the IPCC report on which the framework is based, advises council.

Who to believe? This makes it essential that the 6000 Eurobodalla ratepayers affected be better informed.

A public debate between Dr Church and Dr Robert Carter, the lead author of the Carter, et al submission, is required.

Buoyant real estate and property markets are critical components and indicators of any region's economic wealth and health.

Councillor Leslight's cry

for help to the PM and Premier of NSW was made because the Eurobodalla's median sale price has diminished by between \$38,000 and \$45,000 from 2011, when compared to the adjacent Shoalhaven and Bega Valley shires.

The rot set in following the interim policy's introduction.

Can councillors and staff be allowed to persist with its interim policy?

Neville Hughes
Surf Beach

Early rise on policy

ON November 7, the Hon Andrew Constance was particularly critical of Eurobodalla Shire Council and the councillors in an interview on ABC Radio.

His criticism wasn't singular but collective, and he implied the whole council performed poorly.

His comments were generally associated with council's interim sea-level rise policy, with a more detailed, yet-to-be-signed-off-on policy by the state government to be voted on by council.

What I thought interesting was his criticism of something that council has yet to discuss in a properly called council meeting, the sea-level rise policy for the shire that no-one has seen or had a chance to comment on.

Not only that, the government will have to sign off on it if it agrees with it and its intentions.

Seems to me like he's in a bit of a panic for no reason, because the Government is in control with it all, in the end.

Alan Brown
Batemans Bay

A simple solution

ANDREW Constance and Milton Leslight can back longshots if they like (*Bay Post*, November 7, Sea Spray), but what about the rest of us?

Perhaps they should drop in to downtown Woy Woy during a tidal surge.

There they will see what Moruya will look like when children born now are on the pension.

Some streets are closed because of sea water ingress, and the old pub has planks for patrons to cross flooded kerbs.

And it can only get worse.

Of course we sympathise with people whose coastal properties will either disappear, or need serious money to shore up with sea walls, etc, but to give

people false assurances, just so threatened properties can be sold to unsuspecting buyers, is plain dishonesty.

To develop sea-rise-threatened property is even worse.

Lindsay Brown is right to be worried about litigation.

However, there are other ways.

When the Lockyer Valley in Queensland was inundated a few years ago and people drowned and hous-

es were ripped apart, the council made a constructive decision.

Land values plummeted because no insurance company would cover any house built in place of a ruined one, so council offered to swap flood-prone blocks for similar sized blocks well above the flood zone.

Food for thought?

Stafford Ray
Denham's Beach

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Bermagui Dad's Army donate dollars



THE PRESENTATION: Lori Hammerton, Anthony Jubb, Gerry Hammerton and Dad's Army president Brian Kenyon, all enjoying a moment at the presentation on November 2 at Bermagui Country Club.

THE Bega Valley Can Assist, part of the Cancer Assistance Network, has once again benefited from the generosity of one of Bermagui's social clubs.

Dad's Army Golf, a group of Sunday social golfers, and with the support of the Bermagui Country Club, has donated \$800 to Can Assist from the proceeds of their annual charity Golf Day and barbecue, in recognition of their past life member John Jubb.

"Dad's Army" was born in Bermagui in 1984, initiated by Darcy Hayward. This was, and is purely social golf, over nine holes, played on Sunday morning.

At one stage there was more regular golfers in "Dad's Army" than played in the Saturday competition and the "Army" still commands a big following in harmony with the Golf Club procedures, and includes competition between other "armies".

President Brian Kenyon presented Can Assist representatives Lori and Gerry Hammerton with the cheque and in return Anthony Jubb, representing the Jubb Family received a framed certificate of thanks from Can Assist.

Lori thanked everyone and informed

the group that their donation was greatly appreciated and stated emphatically that every single cent of the donation would remain in the Bega Valley to assist someone affected by cancer.

"There are no administration fees with Can Assist and all members are volunteers! That way we can assure everyone who donates money to our organisation that we know exactly where it goes and what it is used for," Lori said.

Bega Valley Can Assist was formed to financially assist people and their carers affected by cancer by way of paying for accommodation if treatment is out of the Bega Valley, prosthesis expenses, fuel and grocery vouchers, pharmaceutical requirements and much more.

All enquiries and assistance is strictly confidential however a referral from a health care practitioner is required to ensure that the recipient is genuine.

All members are presently busy selling raffle tickets across the shire for the chance to win one of the many terrific prizes in their huge Christmas raffle.

Bega Valley Can Assist has a new direct number and the liaison officer may be contacted by phoning 0439 328 634.



PARTICIPANTS: The participants at the "Becoming Who You Already Are" spiritual retreat in Narooma on the weekend.

Weekend spiritual retreat deemed a success

BY all accounts the Narooma weekend retreat "Becoming Who You Already Are" at the beautiful Island View resort was a great success.

Participants work-shopped in "Meditation as Medicine - Mind your Body" with Kate Nirlipta, who also gave us a gentle yoga work-out.

They practiced social dreaming with Suzi Lee Ross, joined David Oliphant in "Moving towards the centre", sang in melodious harmony together with Merinda Antill.

They watched Babette's Feast and played with the idea of "Icons, Images, Mirrors" with Mandy Wheatley as well as looked into "A time to live and come home to ourselves" with Noel Davis.

In between we ate delicious food and joined in friendship with the Open Sanctuary folk.

One participant's commented: "It was a wonderful weekend. I am still singing our song even in bed I kept waking singing it in my head."

"The planning, content, organisation, warm, welcoming friendship

and fabulous food was all sensational. "A "meant to be" occurrence for me and one from which I will spring deeper in my self-knowledge.

"I hope also it was financially helpful for the Asha Foundation. Great work - thank you...thank you...thank you."

A big thanks to Lorraine Schman and Mandy Wheatley, the newspaper bag ladies, for organising the week-end and supporting education for girls in Nepal.

Margaret Perger to represent The Greens Nominate for Australia Day

THE Greens have selected Margaret Perger to represent the party in the Legislative Assembly for the seat of Bega in the March 2015 election.

Ms Perger is a former Senior Citizen of the Year and is well known for her active involvement in many community organisations.

"I strongly believe in putting my principles into practice and my commitment to sustainability was evident when my first home was built with passive solar design features in 1970," she said.

"As a mature citizen of the world I am a great believer in The Greens fourth principle that violence does not solve any problems."

Ms Perger is a former public servant and an adult educator at TAFE with a BA in Communications and Graduate Diploma in Adult Education.

"I am involved or have been involved in many community groups including starting a local Toastmasters Club to help others develop communication and leadership skills," she said.

"I felt very honoured to be awarded the Eurobodalla Shire Senior Citizen of the Year in 2008 for my commitment to many



GREENS CANDIDATE: Margaret Perger will run again.

community groups including Amnesty International, Red Cross, The Smith Family and Girl Guides often in leadership positions.

"I have also been a Community Radio presenter for more than nine years."

"I am willing and keen to represent those members of the community who believe in Clean Air, Clean Water and Clean Politics for the Bega Electorate," she said.

EUROBODALLA Shire Council is calling on local residents to nominate an outstanding community member for the 2015 Australia Day Awards.

Council will present the awards at a special ceremony in Moruya on Monday, January 26 in four categories: Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year, Sports Achievement, and Community Event of the Year. The Jeff Britten Award for the Pursuit of Excellence will also be awarded during the evening.

Nominations for the 2015 Australia Day Awards close on Friday, November 21 at 4pm.

For more information, contact Carol Hodges on 4474 1358 or visit council's website, www.esc.nsw.gov.au.

Flowers, fruits and flies in the garden!

THIS lovely feijoa flower is on one of many plants at the Narooma Community Garden currently developing buds and flowers prior to fruiting.

The delight created by these flowers and the fruits that follow is tempered by the problem of fruit fly infestation in warmer weather.

Most soft skinned fruits and vegetables, especially stone fruits, apples, pears and tomatoes can become infested by fruit fly.

At the community garden, they have chosen to grow a range of less traditional fruits and berries such as guavas, goji berries, peppinos, mulberries and pomegranates that are low maintenance and less susceptible.

However, community gardeners are still setting up fruit fly traps.

They encourage all gardeners to consider setting



FEIJOA FLOWER: The feijoas are one of many plants at the Narooma Community Garden currently developing flowers prior to fruiting.

up traps no matter how small the garden, as the more widely trapping occurs, the better for all our plants and gardens.

They are using Cera Traps which contain a protein-based solution that attracts male and female flies; once they are within the trap they cannot escape.

The syrupy bait lasts roughly three to four months.

More information next week about the life-cycle and habits of the fruit-fly and alternative baits and traps available for use.

For further information about the community garden, contact Carolyn Wells on 0417 430 750



COBARGO SHAVE: Julia Bracher shaved her head at Midstream Hair in Cobargo on Saturday, November 1 and has so far raised \$4000 for the Cancer Council NSW. The community is proud of Julia's efforts mobilising the local community to get behind her efforts to fight back against cancer.

Council provides more information on rate variation

Continued from Page 1

Eurobodalla Shire Council has responded quickly to requests from some ratepayers for more detailed information about the special rate variation proposal by adding further information, tables, charts and comparisons to its website.

The additions include tables that show what the accumulative impact of an 8% rate variation over 3 years would be in the three categories of residential, farmland and business rates. An example is how the average current residential rate of \$818 would increase by \$212 to \$1032 in 2017-2018.

Other tables show that if a rate variation was applied, by 2017-2018 the average farmland rate would increase from \$1279.72 to \$1612.08 and the average business rate would increase from \$2932.27 to \$3693.82.

The tables show that after 3 years, rates would continue to be permanently

maintained at the higher base rate which would be 25.97 per cent higher than the current rate.

General manager Dr Catherine Dale said that it was also important that residents understood that no decision has yet been made on whether Council will notify the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal that it intends to apply for a rate variation next year.

"Council will make this decision on 9 December and we are currently seeking feedback from the community so that Council can be informed about your views when they make this decision," Dr Dale said.

"You can provide your feedback by sending a letter or email to Council. You are invited to comment on the proposal and the proposed community and transport infrastructure projects and renewal and maintenance works that could be funded through a rate variation."

Dr Dale says a rate variation is one way Eurobodalla

Shire Council could deliver some of the new projects our community has asked for and to be able to look after our community and transport infrastructure at a standard that meets community expectations in the future.

"A three year rate variation would address some of the financial challenges we face in funding the backlog of infrastructure works that grows each year and the increasing ongoing costs of maintaining and renewing infrastructure in the future," Dr Dale said.

Other information now available on Council's

Funding our Future web hub shows that Eurobodalla's average residential rates are lower than Bega, Palerang, Queanbeyan and Shoalhaven councils and explains that this presents challenges for how the maintenance and renewal of infrastructure continues to be funded in the future.

More information on Council's Funding our Future proposal can be viewed at www.esc.nsw.gov.au or by phoning council on 4474 1377.

Submissions on the proposal can be made by mail and email until November 24.

News Business

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Bay Post MORUYA (1)

Northern residents reject SRV : POLL

By LIZ TICKNER

Nov. 11, 2014, 4:49 p.m.



RELATED CONTENT: [Rate rise information session attracts 13](http://www.batemansbaypost.com.au/story/2689375/poll-does-it-really-rate/?cs=229)

[\(<http://www.batemansbaypost.com.au/story/2689375/poll-does-it-really-rate/?cs=229>\)](http://www.batemansbaypost.com.au/story/2689375/poll-does-it-really-rate/?cs=229)

MORE than 100 people have unanimously rejected Eurobodalla Shire Council's plans for a possible rate rise at a public meeting on Saturday.

Long Beach Community Association president David Lambert, one of the meeting's facilitators, plans to present the result to a council meeting.

Mr Lambert said residents had a range of concerns about council's consideration of applying to the state government for a special rate variation.

"People are very distrustful about what is being proposed," Mr Lambert said.

"It looks fairly ordinary when considering the revenue that would be generated from the rate rise.

"Council is not being very forthcoming on how much the things it says it wants to put in place are going to cost, and just who is responsible paid council staff or elected councillors for identifying what is essential and what's not."

Do you support council's proposed rate rise?

Yes

No

[Vote](#) [View Results](#)

Mr Lambert said a number of speakers at the Long Beach meeting questioned the need for a rate rise when council was holding \$74 million in reserve.

"We keep hearing about the 'gap' that apparently exists between the infrastructure and services that council wants to provide on the one hand and the amount of money it currently receives from rates on the other, and that this gap is getting wider; my question is why is there a gap if council is holding so much money in reserve," he said.

At Monday night's information meeting on the rate rise, general manager Catherine Dale said council did hold about \$70 million in reserve, which were restricted funds.

She said the council needed to have funds in reserve in case of an emergency.

Mr Lambert said another issue raised at the Long Beach meeting was the disparity in property values in the Eurobodalla, compared with Bega and Shoalhaven.

Councillor Milton Leslight, who attended Saturday's meeting, said residents in the Eurobodalla shire, many of whom were retirees, were already battling to pay their existing rates as well as increased power and water charges.

"There is a lot of hardship; there is high unemployment, significant homelessness and businesses are closing their doors because of a lack of trade," Cr Leslight said.

Cr Leslight said he wanted to see a lot more "homework" done to justify council's consideration of the rate rise.

"We [council] need to get on top of our own business first," he said.

Cr Liz Innes, who also attended the meeting, was not available for comment.

Mr Lambert said 109 people attended the meeting which was pleasing considering that it coincided with several weekend events.

Dob in a druggie anonymously

By JOSH GIDNEY

If you are a user of illegal drugs, November might be a bad month.

Far South Coast Local Area Command police will launch Operation Bauds, where Eurobodalla and Bega Valley residents can 'dob in druggie, anonymously' next Monday. The operation will run until the end of the month.

Acting FSC LAC Inspector and crime manager Mick MacPherson said the operation would target illicit drug offences, whether it be dealing, use, cultivation or manufacturing.

"Drugs have a massive ripple effect on the greater community," he said.

"People with information can ring our special line on 4478 9937, and leave their report anonymously on an answering machine.

"Any information will be treated with the strictest confidence."

A police spokesman said drug use caused trauma for families and financial hardship as well as health and social issues.

"There is the tying up of police, ambulance, hospitals and courts



DRUG BUSTERS: Far South Coast Local Area Command's senior constable David Bates and Inspector Mick MacPherson are preparing for Operation Bauds, which will give residents the opportunity to inform police about drug offenders.

and the crimes that people are likely to commit to support their habit and because their behaviour is affected," he said.

Mr MacPherson said the opportunity to report drug matters anonymously would appeal

to many. "Anonymity is always a good thing, and that is why Crime Stoppers has been so successful," he said.

He said it did not matter how trivial something seemed; the

police want to know about it.

"Anything can be of value, and significant in the long run," he said.

Drug matters can still be reported directly to police officers and to Crime Stoppers.

BODY FOUND IN WATER

A WOMAN who drowned in the ocean off Dolphin Point on Wednesday has been identified as Marion Parker from Ulladulla.

Mrs Parker is believed to have been walking along the rocks when she slipped and fell into the water sometime before 11am.

Police said they would continue to investigate, while preparing a report for the coroner.

Police are also appealing for any witnesses or anyone with information to come forward.

Rough conditions made it difficult to retrieve the body which was floating near rocks in a cove at Dolphin Point, south of the entrance to Burrill Lake.

Mrs Parker's family has been notified.

SRV INFO SESSIONS

RATEPAYERS are being urged to find out more about Eurobodalla Shire Council's proposal to increase rates through a three-year special rate variation (SRV) at a series of community information sessions.

Mayor Lindsay Brown and general manager Dr Catherine Dale will speak at the sessions which will explain why council is considering applying for a rate variation and what savings it has already put in place to become more efficient.

There will be discussion about the package of community and transport infrastructure projects that would benefit from a rate rise and how any rise would affect ratepayers.

Dr Dale said the sessions and market stalls were some of the ways council was ensuring residents understand the rate variation proposal and how they could provide feedback before the matter goes to council in December.

The sessions will be held at Moruya Library, Monday, November 10, 5pm to 6.30pm, and Batemans Bay Library, Monday, November 17, from 5pm to 6.30pm.

Stalls will also be held at the Moruya Country Markets this Saturday from 8am to 1pm and Batemans Bay High School Markets on Sunday, November 16, from 8am to 12pm.

Councillor implores Prime Minister to intervene

By CARMEN MCINTOSH

COUNCILLOR Milton Leslight has told Prime Minister Tony Abbott that his "personal urgent intervention is imperative" to address sea-level rise policy.

Cr Leslight wrote to Mr Abbott on November 1. The letter includes a graph citing RP Data showing shire property values falling between \$38,000 and \$45,000 since February 2011, after Eurobodalla Shire Council's interim sea-level rise policy was introduced.

The letter to Mr Abbott was forwarded to the *Bay Post/Moruya Examiner*, accompanied by a media release.

Cr Leslight told the Prime Minister the council's policy coincided with "a collapse in the shire's economy and diminishing property values".

"You must be alarmed to learn that duck-shovelling of responsibility between tiers of government has produced incoherent policies for under-resourced and inexperienced local councils to determine," Cr Leslight wrote to the Prime Minister.

"A worrying example is Eurobodalla on the South Coast of NSW."

Cr Leslight cites "highly restrictive planning actions" being introduced "without informing several thousand property owners who have suffered serious conse-

quences".

"In my considered opinion this is a recipe for economic suicide and could lead to bankrupting coastal communities," he says.

"Negative growth in property value (median sale price) compared to both neighbouring shires, (show) the difference varying from 10 per cent to 12.6 per cent, with some foreshore properties suffering up to 52 per cent price reduction"

Cr Leslight told the PM he was copying the letter to NSW Premier Mike Baird, and federal and state parliamentary representatives, "But, with the greatest respect, I trust you will recognise that your personal urgent intervention is imperative".

Views sought on rate rise

By LIZ THICKNER

A PUBLIC meeting will be held on Saturday to canvas people's views on Eurobodalla Shire Council's plans for a possible rate rise.

The meeting has been facilitated by the Long Beach Community Association and the Maloneys Beach Association.

It will be held at the Rural Fire Service facility on Long Beach Road.

The RFS will host a fundraising barbecue at noon with the meeting scheduled to start at 12.30pm.

Long Beach Community Association president David Lambert said the aim of the meeting was to facilitate public discussion - not influence views.

Mr Lambert said it was likely that a vote on whether or not people wanted council to go ahead with the special rate variation would be taken at the meeting.

Council announced last week that five com-



NOT HAPPY: Maloneys Beach Association's Peter Hickford and Long Beach Community Association's David Lambert want residents of Maloneys Beach, Long Beach and the rest of the Eurobodalla to have their say on Eurobodalla Shire Council's possible rate rise. Photo: JOSH GIDNEY.

munity information sessions - three at libraries and two at markets - would be held between November 3 and November 17.

Mayor Lindsay Brown and general manager Dr Catherine Dale will speak at the sessions, explaining why the council is considering applying to the state government for the spe-

cial rate variation.

They will discuss the package of infrastructure projects that are likely to be funded out of the rate rise and also what savings the council has put in place to become more efficient.

But Mr Lambert does not believe the council's sessions are adequately assessing what people want.

"People need to be able to say one way or another if they support a rate rise," Mr Lambert said.

All Eurobodalla residents are invited to Saturday's meeting; they do not have to be members of the Long Beach Community Association or the Maloneys Beach Association to attend.



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Narooma News [\(1\)](#)

Playgrounds, rates and rubbish: the dilemma

By Stan Gorton

Nov. 6, 2014, 3:42 p.m.



Playground opening

Photos of the playground opening

THE brand new replacement playground at Rotary Park, Dalmeny was opened on Wednesday by the youngsters that selected its design.

But the addition of new assets and infrastructure such as the new \$65,000 playground goes to the heart of the current rate increase debate gripping Eurobodalla Shire Council.

Council's director of infrastructure services Warren Sharpe was there for the opening along with mayor Lindsay Brown and councillor Neil Burnside.

Sharpe said that the rate increase was vital to pay for infrastructure around the district.

He said council's current budget allowed for the replacement of one of the shire's playgrounds each year, and there were 36 across the shire.

If the rate variation was approved, then council could replace two a year, which is what the maintenance schedule called for.

Do you think rates should be increased to pay for new assets?

Yes

No

Other:

[View Results](#)

Similarly the new stair access at the Carter's Beach headland had been paid for out of an environmental grant associated with the Dalmeny to Narooma shared pathway, but plans to build another viewing platform at the top of the new stairs was contingent upon the special rate variation being approved.

The first in a series of public meetings on the proposed special rate variation was held at the Narooma Library on Monday night.

About 12 or so attendees were present, along with the mayor, Cllr Burnside and Cllr Gabi Harding, while the general manager and director Warren Sharpe made the presentations.

Apparently concerns were raised over the ability of pensioners and low income earners to handle the rise.

There are now additional rate increase feedback sessions planned for Moruya and Batemans Bay libraries and also at the Moruya markets this Saturday.

While debate on the rates continues, the three Narooma Public School kindergarten classes who tested the new playground are not bothered.

They were just happy with the double slippery dips and the climbing frame, according to teacher Mrs Russack.

The children were asked by Eurobodalla Shire Council's engineers to choose from three playground companies' designs and they chose a concept by Moduplay.

"This is a way of celebrating the involvement of the school kids and recognising the help they have given council in choosing a design they liked," Sharpe said.

Council provides more information on rate variation

News Business

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Eurobodalla Shire Council has responded quickly to requests from some ratepayers for more detailed information about the special rate variation proposal by adding further information, tables, charts and comparisons to its website.

The additions include tables that show what the accumulative impact of an 8% rate variation over 3 years would be in the three categories of residential, farmland and business rates. An example is how the average current residential rate of \$818 would increase by \$212 to \$1032 in 2017-2018.

Other tables show that if a rate variation was applied, by 2017-2018 the average farmland rate would increase from \$1279.72 to \$1612.08 and the average business rate would increase from \$2932.27 to \$3693.82.

The tables show that after 3 years, rates would continue to be permanently maintained at the higher base rate which would be 25.97 per cent higher than the current rate.

General manager Dr Catherine Dale said that it was also important that residents understood that no decision has yet been made on whether Council will notify the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal that it intends to apply for a rate variation next year.

"Council will make this decision on 9 December and we are currently seeking feedback from the community so that Council can be informed about your views when they make this decision," Dr Dale said.

"You can provide your feedback by sending a letter or email to Council. You are invited to comment on the proposal and the proposed community and transport infrastructure projects and renewal and maintenance works that could be funded through a rate variation."

Dr Dale says a rate variation is one way Eurobodalla Shire Council could deliver some of the new projects our community has asked for and to be able to look after our community and transport infrastructure at a standard that meets community expectations in the future.

“A three year rate variation would address some of the financial challenges we face in funding the backlog of infrastructure works that grows each year and the increasing ongoing costs of maintaining and renewing infrastructure in the future,” Dr Dale said.

Other information now available on Council’s Funding our Future web hub shows that Eurobodalla’s average residential rates are lower than Bega, Palerang, Queanbeyan and Shoalhaven councils and explains that this presents challenges for how the maintenance and renewal of infrastructure continues to be funded in the future.

More information on Council’s Funding our Future proposal can be viewed at www.esc.nsw.gov.au or by phoning council on 4474 7377.

Submissions on the proposal can be made by mail and email until November 24.

News Business

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BayPost MORUYA (/)

Public meeting called over Eurobodalla Shire Council's proposed rate rise

By LIZ TICKNER

Nov. 6, 2014, 1:19 p.m.



NOT HAPPY: Maloneys Beach Association's Peter Hickford and Long Beach Community Association's David Lambert want residents of Maloneys Beach, Long Beach and the rest of the Eurobodalla to have their say on Eurobodalla Shire Council's possible rate rise. Photo: Josh Gidney.

A PUBLIC meeting will be held on Saturday to canvas people's views on Eurobodalla Shire Council's plans for a possible rate rise.

The meeting has been facilitated by the Long Beach Community Association and the Maloneys Beach Association.

It will be held at the Rural Fire Service facility on Long Beach Road.

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Long Beach Community Association president David Lambert said the aim of the meeting was to facilitate public discussion - not influence views.

Mr Lambert said it was likely that a vote on whether or not people wanted council to go ahead with the special rate variation would be taken at the meeting.

Council announced last week that five community information sessions - three at libraries and two at markets - would be held between November 3 and November 17.

Mayor Lindsay Brown and general manager Dr Catherine Dale will speak at the sessions, explaining why the council is considering applying to the state government for the special rate variation.

They will discuss the package of infrastructure projects that are likely to be funded out of the rate rise and also what savings the council has put in place to become more efficient.

But Mr Lambert does not believe the council's sessions are adequately assessing what people want.

"People need to be able to say one way or another if they support a rate rise," Mr Lambert said.

All Eurobodalla residents are invited to Saturday's meeting; they do not have to be members of the Long Beach Community Association or the Maloneys Beach Association to attend.

Our say ...

WELL what a time for a power outage - for the first time ever this editor was not able to place a bet or watch the race that stops the nation - the indignity of all!

The power came back on just as we were starting the drive down to Bega to finish the paper, luckily we got the call about Tibba to turn around as the power was back on.

Speaking of indignity, it was shocking to hear that the race favourite Admire Rakti had died after the race and another horse was injured in a freak accident after the race.

This shows how despite all their power, these horses can be so fragile and vulnerable and that racing can be a cruel industry.

Moving on, the amazing and epic effort of local Ben Stainer to walk to Sydney unsupported was a great yarn for the front page.

Well done to Ben who was able to survive the trek and reconnect with his ancestors - perhaps all of us could benefit from such a mission, regardless of the side benefit of weight loss.

The council rates debate continues to dominate the letters page with people no doubt having a view on the potential bigger bite, but on the plus side the new Dalmeny playground was due to open today and residents near the new Hillcrest Avenue stairway have also held their own celebration.

Finally, don't miss out on the BoatsAfloat Festival on this weekend and especially not the parade on Sunday morning - it's well worth going down to boardwalk to check it out!

Mayor's say ...

I write this on Monday evening after our first community information session about the proposal to fund a package of community and transport infrastructure projects and works through a special rate variation.

This first session was held in Narooma and we will hold more in Moruya and Batemans Bay in the next few weeks, and a morning drop in session in Turoos and two markets stall days.

Details are below and everyone is invited to come along, ask questions and have their say.

This period of community engagement is important and I wish to make it very clear that no decision has been made about if we should apply for a rate variation. In December Council will vote on this issue.

If the vote is in favour of letting the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal know that we intend to apply for a rate variation, we will again seek feedback from the community through December

and January before making the final decision to apply in February next year.

So please let us know your views by attending a session or sending us an email or letter.

A few people asked for further explanation about how a three-year rate variation would affect their rates.

If a rate variation of 5 per cent a year was introduced for three years, it would be on top of the annual rate peg that is set by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal which is estimated at 3 per cent a year.

So the total annual increase is 8 per cent a year. The rate variation is only applied to residential, business or farmland rates and these are your general rates.

A rate variation is not applied to other charges on your rates and charges notice such as the environmental levy water, sewerage, waste, stormwater, and garbage collection.

The annual rate increase of 8 per

cent would be applied every year for 3 years, so it is a cumulative increase.

On the current average annual residential rate of \$318.30, an 8 per cent increase in 2015-2016 would be \$65.46 which would make the average residential rate \$383.76.

The next year, 2016-2017, another 8 per cent or \$70.71 would be added to this so you would be paying \$954.47. In the final year three, which would be 2017-2018, another 8 per cent or \$76.35 would be added so you would be paying \$1030.82.

After this your rates stay at the new higher level and increase every year by the annual rate peg set by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal.

If a special rate variation of 5 per cent is added to the 3 per cent rate peg and 8 per cent is applied for 3 years, by 2017-2018 the average residential rate would have increased by \$212.52 a year which is \$4.09 a week.

If there is no special rate varia-

tion and rates increase by the rate peg estimate of 3 per cent only, in 2017-2018 the average residential rate would have increased by \$75.88 a year which is \$1.46 a week.

Over 3 years, the extra total cost of a 5 per cent special rate variation on average residential rates would be \$136.64.

You are invited to attend information sessions at 5pm at the Moruya Library on Monday, November 10 and Batemans Bay Library on Monday, November 17.

We will be at the Moruya markets on Saturday, November 8, the Batemans Bay High School markets on Sunday, November 16 and the Turoos Shopping Centre on November 22.

Please let me know if there is any issue you feel Eurobodalla Shire Council may be able to help you with. You can email me at mayor@eurobodalla.nsw.gov.au or phone me on 0418 279 215.

Clr Lindsay Brown
Mayor of Eurobodalla Shire

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thanks for the stairway

Would you please convey our thanks to the Eurobodalla Shire Council for providing the steps from Hillcrest Avenue to the bridge.

They were sorely needed, as there was no other safe pedestrian access from North Narooma to the bridge pathway.

In appreciation of council's efforts several of us who live locally, held an impromptu gathering last Wednesday to unofficially declare the project completed and open to the public.

In proper style, we cut a ribbon drawn across the stairs and cracked a "bottle of bubbly".

Once again, thank you to the council for a job well done.

Peter Kelao
On behalf of North Narooma residents

Trade error

Last week's Mayoral column stated the "I love my local business competition" was a NSW Business Chamber initiative.

But the competition is an initiative of NSW Fair Trading.

NSW Fair Trading Minister Matthew Mason-Cox encouraged people to nominate their favourite local café, retailer or trader for the 'I love my local business' Facebook competition, as part of NSW Fair Trading Week.

Local businesses keen to promote the competition among their customers will find resources including poster and web images on the NSW Fair trading website: www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au

Roads, rates and rubbish

They say you are never too old to learn, but even little old me was surprised last week to read the Eurobodalla Shire Council's flyer about its upcoming ratepayer survey. What surprised me?

Was it that the ESC was conducting a survey (even about constituents' happiness to pay higher rates); or that I seem not to have been one of the 600 selected to be interviewed?

No, it was that apparently council's role is no longer "rates, roads and rubbish".

Colour me stupid, but that is exactly what I thought councils existed for!

But no, as governments at higher levels have stopped providing services, it seems their functions must be subsumed by local government.

In taking up the burdens of environmental protection, nuclear non-proliferation, beautifying the cityscape, providing ancillary health services, gay marriage for adult wombats (not that there is anything wrong with cohabitation by consenting wombat adults), etc.

Council finds it can no longer afford to provide such mundane services as roads and rubbish management.

At least, judging by the perfection of local roads, one can only assume that they no longer need maintenance.

So, after due consultation, we the ESC residents, will no doubt be told in 2015 that we may have to up the ante via higher rates.

Which personally I can live with - providing I see an improvement in basic services.

At the moment I must confess that my heart bursts with civic pride when surveying the beautified main street of my local city, Narooma.

Millions well spent, obviously!
Far better value than fixing the leaking roof of the Sports and Leisure Centre.

Much sexier use of public funds than grading, (or, heaven forbid! sealing) local goat tracks.

And I also noted that the Shire contains some 54 public toilets - fine facilities all, especially for the older amongst us, who can't necessarily tie and untie knots as we could, when younger. Just a shame that Council can't find the money to pay cleaners to occasionally maintain them: the gents' behind the Batemans Bay Information Centre has apparently never met a brush, or bottle of disinfectant...

So, fellow citizens, when casting your vote at the next local government election, remember the ERA councillors, who fight for sanity, reality and boring, basic services.

And remember also the others, who want the Shire to be a Green oasis where feral animals holiday, roads are designed for sulky drivers (I can feel myself going a little hoarse, even sulky, at the thought!) and progress takes us back to the halcyon days of the 90s - the 1890s!

S. Kennedy
Corunna



LIVETHEATRE: The hilarious performance of "Kitty the Waitress", written by Christopher Durang. Photo by Prem Samira

Live theatre at its best

On October 23-25, there was a collection of short plays performed at the Murrah Hall, south of Bermagui.

Thematically orientated towards animals the show was aptly named "Some Animal, A Bird, Mainly Human".

The program was divided into two segments. The first half was performed by the talented actors from Theatre Onset: "Border Patrol" with Liz Brennan, "Snake Handler" acted by Mahamati, "Ten Minute Love Story" co-performed by Ann & Bob Buck and "Fifteen Minutes" performed by Jane Gordon.

After interval "Turning Circle Productions", a loose collaboration of mainly Bermi area performers, staged two very entertaining comedies, directed by Howard Stanley.

In the first play, the audience was ushered outside to watch a short comedy called "Bird and Hunter", performed by Mary McLean and Jimmy Zero. Mary's amazing rendition of the bird was set in the shrubby embankment of the Hall. The bush in the background and the rain falling felt like part of the act.

Then it was back inside to the dry and warm ambience of the old timber Hall and the hilarious performance of "Kitty the Waitress", written by Christopher Durang.

The main characters of the play were superbly cast with Gary McKechnie, the troubled Mr O'Brien and Rosie Watt's outstanding portrayal of Kitty, the preposterously seductive French waitress.

At the end, Kitty turned out to be a cat who was euthanased! Supporting actors Albert McKnight, Katarina Fittock, Howard Stanley (the Vet) and Gandharvo helped set the scene for a very quirky comedy.

The humour and strong emotions were surprisingly captured in a simple setting of alternating bright light and total darkness.

The dramatic lighting, co designed by Howard Stanley and Gary McKechnie, consisted of a slide projector hanging from the roof beams shining light onto a clear white background.

It was seriously good value!
Marienne Hunter
Bermagui

So many questions on the rate rise

I have sent this letter to council as feedback on the "Funding Our Future" proposal.

I refer to a pamphlet received recently titled "Funding Our Future", in which council proposes a permanent increase in rates of more than 24 per cent over the next three years because "the costs of maintaining and renewing infrastructure and providing services are increasing".

Rather than provide specific opinion on a range of potentially contentious issues, I pose the following series of comments and questions which I hope would be in the minds of my fellow ratepayers.

First, if you asked your employer for a 24 per cent pay rise over the next three years because your costs were rising, what do you think the employer would say?

Secondly, council states that "Our rates make up 55 per cent of Council's annual revenue." What is council's intention with the other 45 per cent of the revenue? Are similar increases of over 24 per cent being imposed on those revenue streams too? Do ratepayers derive 55 per cent of the benefit from the infrastructure and services?

Council states that "Long term financial planning shows that we will not be able to meet the cost of maintaining and renewing infrastructure to meet our needs and expectations".

What other options have been considered, explored and exhausted? Has consideration been given to which projects should not proceed? Has the process to determine which projects receive funding been rigorously examined?

Can other ratepayers quote an example of a

project which has provided questionable value to only very few residents?

This ratepayer certainly can! Council states that "projects have already been identified as priorities by our community".

Does that mean that they are justified? If a household can't afford a new project, they do without it; shouldn't that be an option for council too? One of the projects identified as a priority by our community is the upgrade of the Batemans Bay CBD.

Does this represent a benefit to the whole community or just the businesses concerned? If it is the businesses which benefit, shouldn't the businesses pay for it, not all ratepayers?

Council refers to "making considerable savings" but provides no detail of those savings. Has there been a complete review of the current costs? If so, to what level of detail?

Have all contracts been reviewed and/or new contracts been negotiated to reduce the current costs?

What is the state wide benchmark of \$ of revenue to \$ costs per ratepayer, broken down by the different types of ratepayers?

How does Eurobodalla Shire compare with the benchmark? With an ever increasing tourist population, what measures is council adopting to ensure that domestic ratepayers do not pay for the ever increasing costs associated with the increase in visitors to the area?

Finally, is it reasonable to expect any ratepayer to support a permanent rate increase of over 24 per cent over the next 3 years, with so many unanswered questions?

Therov Deadman
Englebin

Letters to the Narooma News must be signed with the full name and address of the writer and a phone number if possible. Preference will be given to letters that meet a 300 word limit. The Narooma News reserves the right to edit letters. Send your letters to, "The Editor", Narooma News, PO Box 443 Narooma NSW 2548 or email: stan.gorton@fairfaxmedia.com.au

100 YEARS AGO Moruya Examiner

Extracts from the files of the Moruya Examiner established in 1864

SHIRE-WIDE news extracts from the Moruya Examiner of this time in 1914, provided by the Moruya and District Historical Society:

CABLE BROKEN - Word was received in Moruya on Tuesday to the effect that the Bateman's Bay telegraph and telephone cable which crosses the Clyde River at Bateman's Bay had been broken by the Co-operative Coastal Co's steamer. The local Inspector, Mr Harry White, proceeded on the following morning by motor car to investigate, and on his return to Moruya full particulars of the break was wired to the Department in Sydney, 7/11/1914

THE SEASON - Unquestionably the Far South Coast has been blessed this year with the best spring it has experienced for very many years past. The nice showers, following regular hot and sometimes muggy days, has produced a luxuriant growth of herbage of all varieties, and now the paddocks are waving with clover and rye grass, and the bush runs have natural grasses two and three feet high. What a glorious opportunity for winter conservation. Now dairymen!

TELEGRAMS - Austin Chapman has made further representations to the PMG re the great delay that takes place in sending ordinary telegrams which necessitates paying double rates and sending them urgent. He contended this was unfair and should be promptly remedied and where the congestion and delay was caused by lack of lines further wires should be erected so as to ensure reasonable delivery without being obliged to pay double, the latter course being also against the interest of those who were unable or unwilling to pay urgent rates. 7/11/1914

URGENT WANTS - It is gratifying to hear that our country Councilors have at last been prevailed on by Moruya's only representative, Councillor Flood, to attend to some of our very urgent wants. At the last meeting of the Council it was agreed to erect a windmill over the town well, near the steamers' wharves, and we hear that the bills have been agreed to. Good man, Tom! May your shadow never grow less. 7/11/1914

MADMAN - Owing to a report that Mr Whitaker had seen a madman in the Moggandoura ranges, our mounted Police Officers scoured the hills and dales in the vicinity, but no such individual, not even a German spy, could they discover. The mystery is in a measure explained by the fact that Mr Mison, sir, who has recently had his hair closely cut - a la our only General - was out shooting in the locality named about the time the madman was supposed to have been seen. We have not since heard the state of Richard's health. 7/11/1914

EMBARGO ON NEWSPAPERS - The following official announcement is forwarded for publication in the press: - Instructions have been issued by the Commonwealth Government that no newspapers are permitted to leave Australia until further notice. The shipping companies have been requested to cooperate by giving instructions to their passengers that newspapers must not be taken on board ships leaving Australia. The military authorities and Customs officials have instructions to see that order is carried out. They have power under recent Commonwealth legislation to search ships if necessary and also to arrest and detain any person who attempts a breach of this order. 7/11/1914

Sixteen 100 Years Ago booklets containing articles for the years 1899 to 1913 are available (\$5 each) from the society's rooms. Copies of local newspapers from the 1860s to date can be viewed at the society's Family History Research Centre (Ph 4474 3224) situated at the rear of the Pioneer Museum in Campbell St, Moruya (mohs.org.au).

Blown away by climate change

STEVE Colman is on a mission. In Moruya on November 22, he will present Blown away by climate change - Awakening the Dreamer: A Transformative Workshop for People and Planet.

Steve says the workshop (free, from 9am to 12.30pm) is ideal for anyone who wants to deepen their understanding of the current state of our world and find out how to take action to create environmental sustainability, social justice and spiritual fulfilment for all humanity.

"Participants will explore these three core aspects of our societal condition via facilitated interaction and engaging audiovisual elements that feature some of the world's leading experts on topics as diverse as the current state of the

Earth's biodiversity and the reality of the socio-economic disparity throughout the world," he said.

"After grounding our awareness in the facts regarding the consequences of humanity's current relationship with the Earth and each other, we examine how we arrived at this point.

"Through a process of guided self-inquiry, each individual will discover the unique stand that they wish to take for a more just, sustainable, and fulfilling world."

Steve says that at the workshop people will be able to share their concerns about the state of the world with like-minded people, and support each other in taking steps to effect the changes they would like to see.

"For more than 40 years I have been an avid explorer of many

of the planet's wild places," he said, "from climbing in the Himalaya, sailing a small boat to Antarctica, canoeing to the Arctic Ocean and backcountry skiing in the Snowy Mountains.

"These unique and pristine places are now under severe threat from climate change and in the Eurobodalla we now face significant challenges from a drying climate and sea-level rise.

"This workshop looks at not only the environmental challenges we face but also how social injustice and our disconnection from nature are having profound impacts on our planet.

"One of the planned outcomes from the workshop is to help participants design and implement actions on issues that they are passionate about, and another is to support



CONCERNED: Steve Colman's workshop on environmental challenges will also discuss how social injustice and human disconnection from nature profoundly affect our planet.

community groups that are already active in this arena." The free workshop, sponsored by Pachamama Alliance and Global Learning, has been presented in more than 80 countries by volunteers.

Places for the workshop are limited and can be booked at globallearning.com.au/atd.html. For more information, contact Steve on 0414 491 375 or steve@globallearning.com.au.

Explaining how a rate variation works



mayor's memo with Lindsay Blower

I WRITE this on Monday evening after council's first community information session about the proposal to fund a package of community and transport infrastructure projects and works through a special rate variation.

The first session was held in Narooma and council will hold more in Moruya and Batemans Bay in the next few weeks, and a morning drop-in session in Turoos and two markets stall days. Details are below and everyone is invited to come along, ask questions and have their say.

These sessions are important and I wish to make it very clear that no decision has been made about whether council should apply for a rate variation. In December, Council will vote on

this issue. If the vote is in favour of letting the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal know that council intends to apply for a rate variation, council will again seek feedback from the community in December and January before making the final decision to apply in February next year. So please let council know your views by attending a session or sending an email or letter.

A few people asked for further explanation about how a three-year rate variation would affect their rates. If a rate variation of five per cent a year was introduced for three years, it would be on top of the annual rate peg that is set by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal, which is estimated at three per cent a year. So the total annual increase is eight per cent a year.

The rate variation is only applied to residential, business and farmland rates and these are general rates. A rate variation is not applied

to other charges on rates and charges notices, such as the environmental levy, and water, sewerage, waste, stormwater, and garbage collection.

The annual rate increase of eight per cent would be applied every year for three years, so it is a cumulative increase. On the current average annual residential rate of \$818.30, an eight per cent increase in 2015-16 would be \$65.46 which would make the average residential rate \$883.76. The next year, 2016-17, another eight per cent, or \$70.71, would be added to this, taking the bill to \$954.47. In the final year, 2017-18, another eight per cent, or \$76.35, would be added, making it \$1030.82.

After this, rates will stay at the new higher level and increase every year by the annual rate peg set by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal.

If a special rate variation of 5 per cent is added to the 3 per cent rate peg and 8 per cent is applied for three years, by 2017-

18 the average residential rate would have increased by \$212.52 a year, or \$4.09 a week.

If there is no special rate variation and rates increase by the rate peg estimate of three per cent only, in 2017-18 the average residential rate would have increased by \$75.88 a year, or \$1.46 a week.

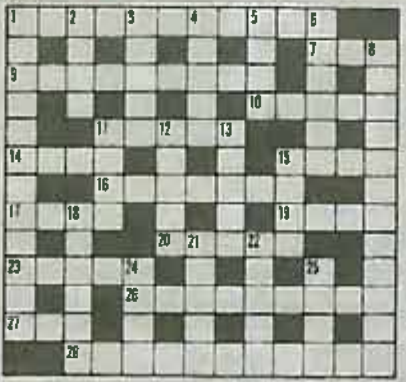
Over three years, the extra total cost of a five per cent special rate variation on average residential rates would be \$136.64.

You are invited to attend information sessions at Moruya Library on November 10 and Batemans Bay Library on November 17 at 5pm, and to call in to council's stall at Moruya Country Markets on November 8, Batemans Bay High School markets on November 16 and Turoos Head shopping centre on November 22.

If there is any issue you feel Eurobodalla Shire Council may be able to help you with, email mayor@eurocoast.nsw.gov.au or phone 0418 279 215.

Two-way Crossword No 3009

- THE HARD WAY**
- Across**
1 What's in store for the carryout? (8,3)
7 Drink available in general election (3)
9 Leave it to the last minute to prepare mint? (3,2,4)
10 We'll restrict the woman's question (5)
11 Box of matches, tough, to some extent (5)
14 Instrument is also over pound (4)
15 Among you, Zoe has a tippie (4)
16 On Mars, a weird river traveller! (7)
17 Instrument that's blown round border (4)
19 Sort of root that may go into your tea (4)
20 Cooker's smashed in (5)
23 Tu mover in jackets (3)
26 I'm a wild animal in road I'm all confused (9)
27 Nasty chap falling over in this black stuff (3)
28 Artist has to go in near it in make-up (11)
- Down**
1 You can't tell your supporters in this (8,5)
2 Swearword acceptable in court (4)
3 Repair ground for vegetables (5)
4 Spikes in which point is in a bed way (5)
5 On British Rail, we'll go round to make tea (4)
6 Cake way-in to a guy's heart (6)
8 24-hour service for those who are always hungry? (4,4,4)
11 Stupid fellow hides pound in bed (4)
12 Navy in rough sea works for its money (5)
13 Work encountered rising with speed (5)
15 Handred squeezed into one in years gone by (4)
18 He has standing orders as a match official (5)
21 Send money bank for a clock (5)
22 The spirit of Russia! (5)
24 He's not the first to survive (4)
25 Tribe left in prison (4)



SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD 3008
ACROSS: 1 Skew, 3 Sum total, 9 Madonna, 10 Ankle, 11 Reproduction, 13 Repots, 15 Useful, 17 Civil servant, 20 Lama, 21 Oddball, 22 Whinewort, 23 Vera.
DOWN: 1 Somboro, 2 End up, 4 Uranus, 5 Tear to shreds, 6 Take off, 7 Leer, 8 Indoctinate, 12 Floola, 14 Private, 16 Ashore, 18 Agate, 19 Flew.

- THE EASY WAY**
- Across**
1 Hotel for purchases (8,3)
7 Bear (3)
9 Allow little margin of time (3,2,4)
10 In which place (5)
11 A coffee (5)
14 Implement (4)
15 Spirit from Greece (4)
16 A rover (7)
17 To border (4)
18 Solid square (4)
20 Cooker (5)
23 Folded back collar on jacket (5)
26 Plated mammal (9)
27 Road covering (3)
28 An artiste (11)
- Down**
1 Hidden voting (5,5)
2 Curse (4)
3 Piece of cloth for mending (5)
4 Claws (5)
5 Make a pot of tea (4)
6 Cream cake (5)
8 Always offering unrestricted admission (4,4,4)
11 A stupid person (4)
12 Merits (5)
13 Best of music (5)
15 A simple time (4)
18 Cricket referee (6)
21 Cook's watch (5)
22 Russian spirit (5)
24 Darning after all others (4)
25 Family tribe (4)

Target Word 3009

HOW many words of four letters or more can you make from the letters shown here? In making a word, each letter may be used once only. Each must contain the centre letter and there must be at least one nine-letter word. No plurals.



Today's target: Good: 13 words Very good: 19 words Excellent: 25 words

SOLUTION TO TARGET WORD 3008
21st annual ANNUALITY and 19th Ian Kayman lent library main nearby mania mania mania many natural mini mint mix natal try

OCTOBER 2014

Date	Publication	Article Title
31 October 2014	Bay Post/Moruya Examiner	Rates rise: Information sessions start Monday
29 October 2014	Narooma News	Community sessions on rates
29 October 2014	Narooma News	Letters to the editor
29 October 2014	Narooma News	Letters to the editor
29 October 2014	Bay Post/Moruya Examiner	Letters to the editor
24 October 2014	Bay Post/Moruya Examiner	Letters to the editor
19 October 2014	Eurobodalla Shire Council Facebook Page	Information on Funding the Future
17 October 2014	Bay Post/Moruya Examiner	\$200 rates hike predicted by 2017
17 October 2014	Bay Post/Moruya Examiner	Letters to the editor
15 October 2014	Bay Post/Moruya Examiner	Eurobodalla rate rise plan
8 October 2014	Narooma News	Council considers rate rise
8 October 2014	Bay Post/Moruya Examiner	Letters to the editor
1 October 2014	Narooma News	Letters to the editor

Blue Knot Day unveils abuse

BLUE Knot Day, recognition of adult survivors of childhood trauma, was held on Sunday at Batemans Bay's Salvation Army worship centre.

Captain Ross Holland said time was taken in a special service, to reflect on victims of childhood abuse.

"We have people in our church who have suffered child abuse," he said.

Members of the church made knot bracelets and considered the effects of child abuse.

"A lot of them took their bracelets home to pray throughout the week for those affected," Mr Holland said.

He said the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual

Abuse had shone a spotlight on the issue.

"The royal commission really highlighted the need to look at the issue," Mr Holland said.

"People really feel very strongly about this."

Mr Holland said, "very sadly", eight Salvation Chapel members from across the state were found guilty of child abuse.

"Since this, the Salvation Army has taken a very strong stance to make sure this never happens again," he said.

"We acknowledge they did the wrong thing."

Blue Knot Day is Adults Suffering Child Abuse's (ASCA) national awareness day.

ASCA helps Australian adults who have experienced trauma

in childhood recover.

This includes people who have experienced child abuse in all its forms, neglect, domestic violence in childhood and other adverse childhood events.

All Australians are asked to unite in support of the five million Australian adult survivors of childhood trauma.

ASCA President Dr Cathy Kezelman said the significance of this year's Blue Knot Day was growing and the issue of child sexual abuse had never been more prominent.

This year's event focused on the education and training urgently needed for health professionals and organisations working with survivors of all forms of childhood trauma.

Boats on show

By JOSH GIDNEY

A BOAT show on next week in Batemans Bay will become an annual event if organisers have their way.

The Batemans Bay Boatshow will be held at Batemans Bay Marina on November 8.

Batemans Bay Marina general manager David Reay said Eurobodalla boats would be joined by boats from Sydney and Canberra.

Many of them will be open to the public, and admission is free.

"Batemans Bay SES will perform a rescue demonstration in the river and other services such as Roads and Maritime Service and Marine Rescue will be there," Mr Reay said.

Mogo Zoo and other businesses will host displays and there will be food stalls and a jumping castle for the kids.

"This is part of our plan to reinvigorate the mari-



SHOW TIME:

Batemans Bay Marina general manager David Reay is looking forward to the Batemans Bay Boatshow at Batemans Bay Marina on Saturday, November 8.

na, turn it into a hub of activity, and get more people involved with the groups that use it, such as the Batemans Bay Sailing Club and the Batemans Bay Game Fishing Club," Mr Reay said.

"We want to hold it every year and build on it each year."

Mr Reay said the redevelopment of the Marina was progressing well and it was scheduled to be finished "early to mid next year."

The Boatshow starts at 9am on Saturday, November 8 and runs to 5pm.

Rates rise: information sessions start Monday

By LIZ TICHENER

RESIDENTS are invited to attend one of five sessions to hear why Eurobodalla Shire Council is considering an application to the NSW government to raise rates.

The council will host the sessions - three at public libraries and two at community markets - between November 3 and November 17.

Mayor Lindsay Brown and general manager Dr Catherine Dale will address the sessions.

They said the sessions would explain why the council is considering the rate rise, what savings the council had put in place to become more efficient, the package of community and transport infrastructure projects it wanted, and how the rate rise would affect ratepayers.

Upgrades to sporting facilities, community halls and playgrounds, parks, roads and bridges and pathways; an extension to Moruya Library to include a multi-use exhibition space; and, improvements to Batemans Bay's CBD around North and Orient Streets to support business growth are among earmarked projects.

Feedback from the sessions will help council decide at its December 9 meeting if it should notify the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) of its intention to apply for the special rate variation.

The tribunal will hand down its decision to the council in June next year.

If it approves the variation, the rate increase would be included in the first rates notice of the 2015-16 financial year.

"Our long-term financial planning shows we will not be able to meet the cost of maintaining and renewing this infrastructure to

meet your needs and expectations," the council's website states.

"A special rate variation is one way that we could fund this."

Dr Dale said the sessions were some of the ways council was ensuring residents understood the rate variation proposal and how they could give feedback before the matter returns to the council on December 9.

"We have also sent about 20,000 information brochures to ratepayers on the proposal recently and are currently conducting a telephone survey of a representative sample of 600 residents," Dr Dale said.

"I invite you to also take a look at the Funding Our Future pages of council's website www.esc.nsw.gov.au or to phone us on 4474 1000 if you have any questions."

WHERE'S MY CLOSEST SESSION?

Public library sessions

- Narooma Library, Monday, November 3, 5pm to 6.30pm
- Moruya Library, Monday, November 10, 5pm to 6.30pm
- Batemans Bay Library, Monday, November 17, 5pm to 6.30pm

Community market sessions

- Moruya Country Markets on Saturday, November 8, 8am to 1pm
- Batemans Bay High School Markets, Sunday, November 16, 8am to noon.

Have the experience

celebrate Melbourne Cup at Barkala

Tuesday 4th November
1pm - 4.30pm

Come and watch the race with us and enjoy your Melbourne Cup Day in style

6 Course Tapas Menu \$40 per person +
Complementary glass of bubbles on arrival

prizes for best dressed & sleeps

barkala
kitchen & bar

e: info@barkala.com.au
4472 4880

On the Promenade, Batemans Bay

Old hearing aids help twice

HEARING aids will become a form of overseas aid, thanks to an innovative trade-in program.

All hearing aids traded in at participating clinics will go to Ears Inc., an Australian not-for-profit organisation assisting in the rehabilitation of the hearing impaired in developing countries and remote locations.

According to Ears Inc, appropriate intervention was essential, especially for children, for people to have a chance in life.

Without auditory rehabilitation, a charity spokesman said, hearing impaired and deaf children in developing countries were routinely abandoned.

In developing countries, millions of hearing impaired children don't have hearing aids or rehabilitation support.

In stark contrast, Australian children with hearing loss receive complete rehabilitation support, including free hearing aids.

Having the right hearing solution helps people participate more fully in family, social and work environments, regardless of where they live.

Batemans Bay's Connect Hearing is

offering up to a \$1000 trade-in for older hearing aids, when upgraded, and will pass the old ones onto the charity.



DOUBLE HELP: Audiologist Berni Tumbait says hearing aids can help second life in developing countries. Children and adults hear their

Handmade products at Soldiers C

SOUTH Coast Handmade will be held at the Soldiers Club on Saturday, November 8.

The not-for-profit event will this year donate funds to the Moruya Oncology Unit.

"Local money, spent local, kept local," is organiser Amy Viles intention.

The market showcases the talents

and unique products of creatives from the Eurobodalla and elsewhere. It draws shoppers from areas.

"We have more than 50 stalls showcasing handmade-only acts and talent," Ms Viles said. Show starts at 10am and finishes at 3pm.

Entry is free.

Skate park expansion open



GREAT WORK: Mayor Lindsay Brown with skate park users Zach Hawkey, Sam Nagus, Jerremiah Campbell and Monty O'Brien on Friday.

The Narooma skate park expansion was officially opened on Friday by the Eurobodalla Shire mayor Lindsay Brown.

The upgrade to the park has been long anticipated and the local skaters are over the moon with the end result, according to council youth development officer Angie McMillan.

"The actual process of engaging with the young people and seeking their input into what features they would like to see has proven to be extremely successful," she said.

"The young people who frequent the park are taking greater ownership of the facility and while there will always be some individuals who don't always do the right thing, the majority of skaters have taken pride in their park and endeavour to look after it."

Monty, Ninnum and Joey are skaters who are there every day.

"It's exactly what we wanted," the boys said.

"It was great being able to have input into the design and we would like to thank council for letting us have a voice."

McMillan said the park was now being

frequented by more young people and families and there is room for everyone to share the facility.

"The newly planted grass is giving the park a great look as, from a distance, the area stands out quite impressively and many remarks from local residents have been very complimentary indeed," she said.

"In the future, having a shaded area, water bubbler and seating will enhance the park even further."

Youth development officers meanwhile are very excited about the upcoming skate competition on January 11, when they will welcome The Big Air School (BAS) for what promises to be an exciting day.

BAS will be engaging with council's youth project team to deliver the new Tri-Series Leaderboard, which is a competition run over the year for all three disciplines (Skate, Scooter and BMX) with a winner in all three announced at the final at Moruya during Youth Week in April.

All interested riders should check out the youth pages on council's website www.esc.gov.au for details.



VISITING DENTISTS: Visiting dentist Graíne Mulcare from Ireland and dental assistant Melissa Donnelly from Katoomba with Katungul chief executive Jon Rogers and Aboriginal health worker Jordan Nye in the dental clinic.

Filling the gap at Katungul

By Stan Gorton

THE Katungul Aboriginal medical service is using a couple of innovative programs to boost its dental services with visiting dentists.

Both the "Closing the Gap" program of the Sydney dental hospital and not for profit "Filling the Gap" program have been utilised in recent months bringing dentists to Narooma from as far away as England and Ireland.

Over the past couple of weeks, visiting dentist Graíne Mulcare from Ireland and dental assistant Melissa Donnelly from Leura in the Blue Mountains have been seeing patients at the Aboriginal health service.

"It's great to be able to help the clinics and we can feel we are doing some good in the short term of two weeks, reducing waiting lists," Mulcare said.

"It's really rewarding. The staff and patients are very appreciative of what we do."

Katungul chief executive Jon Rogers said the having the visiting dentist in the health service's dental clinic in Narooma did reduce the waiting list for patients.

It also allowed the service's own dentist to go out into the community with the mobile health van, he said.

Overseas dentists such as Mulcare paid their own way to Australia and then the programs paid for their accommodation and a car.

Mulcare said after her two-week stint at Katungul, she was going straight back to Ireland and her work at the practice in the town of Ballybunton in County Kerry.

This was her third trip to Australia and she had enjoyed her time here. "You have a lovely golf course and so do we back in my hometown where our golf course is ranked in the top 10 in Ireland with sand dunes featured as it is also next to the beach," she said.

Katungul meanwhile had ambitious plans to expand with an office at Batemans Bay and at a time when government funding was being reduced, the dental Gap programs were even more important, Rogers said.

Community sessions on rates

EUROBODALLA Shire Council will soon host a series of community information sessions and market stalls that will talk about its proposal to consider increasing rates through a three-year special rate variation.

Mayor Lindsay Brown and general manager Dr Catherine Dale will speak at the sessions which will explain why council is considering applying for a rate variation and what savings it has already put in place to become more efficient.

There will be discussion about the package of community and transport infrastructure projects that would benefit from a rate rise and how any rise would affect ratepayers.

Dr Dale said the sessions and market stalls were some of the ways council is ensuring residents understand the rate variation proposal and how they can provide feedback before the matter goes to a council meeting in December.

"We have also sent around 20,000 information brochures to ratepayers on the proposal recently and are currently conducting a telephone survey of a representative sample of 600 residents," Dr Dale said.

The Narooma community information session is at the Narooma Library on Monday, November 3 from 5pm to 6.30pm.

There will also be a stall at Moruya Country Markets on Saturday, November 8, from 8am to 1pm.

Shark warnings along coast

EXPERTS have issued shark warnings after a number of great white shark and other shark sightings up and down the coast.

This includes around the dead baby humpback whale that washed up north of Batemans Bay on Sunday, while a large great white was also spotted in close off Cuttagee Beach the same day.

An Eden commercial fishspotter and windsurfer meanwhile has warned of more face-to-face encounters with sharks, saying he has "never seen so many".

Gary Warren says he has seen a number of what he believes to be white pointers in recent weeks, including one while windsurfing off Boydtown last Sunday.

He says he has spotted several more from the air, including a pair at Bournda and another near the Pinnacles.

"Last Sunday there was a school of salmon going along Boydtown, and I noticed they were spinning an unusual distance from the shore," Mr Warren said.

"I knew there was only one thing that would be causing that, but I wasn't going to get too close while I was windsurfing, so I told [commercial fisherman] Roger Foutner.

"He went and had a look and saw a shark in a school of salmon off Cocora Beach.

"I couldn't guarantee it was a white pointer, but in these temperatures, I'd be willing to bet it was."

Read more about the whales and the sharks at www.naroomanews.com.au

Residents deal with flood wash-up

Continued from Page 3

RESIDENTS on the Narooma Flat meanwhile continue to deal with the aftermath of the flooding event on Tuesday, October 14.

This includes 76-year-old George Hulley who has lived in Narooma all his life and whose house on McMillan Road also flooded back in the 2010 heavy rainfall event.

He again lost all his carpets and some of his furniture in this latest deluge.

"The drainage is inadequate and overloaded and what we need is proper drainage channel into the inlet," he said.

Growing up he recalls a creek flowing into the inlet where the current drainage pipes exit under Riverside



FLAT FLAPS: The two drainage pipes at Quota Park with one-way flaps are not enough to drain off water after a heavy downpour, according to some.

Drive at Quota Park, and also a swampy area where Bill Smyth Oval sits today that funnelled water in the other direction toward the new roundabout.

He called on council to conduct a proper review of the drainage system as it was only a matter of time before it happened again. Read his letter on page 10.

Tale of two stairways

HILLCREST STAIRWAY: (Right) The Eurobodalla Shire Council work crews put the finishing touches on the new Hillcrest Avenue stairway this week with locals already using the new stairs. Pictured are workers Bruce Cameron and Pat Willis.



CARTERS STAIRWAY: Work meanwhile has begun on the new stairway down from the Carters Beach headland at Kanga down to the north end Bar Beach. Stay tuned to the News for more news!

Have you found out what is fresh, new and exciting at WHALE COAST REALTY?



1 Field Street, Narooma 2546 Ph: 02 4476 2699

Email: rentals@whalecoastrealty.com.au

www.whalecoastrealty.com.au www.naroomanews.com.au

Our say ...

This photograph of rubbish strewn over the car park at 1000 Beach at Mystery Bay was sent to us through Facebook called "Human droppings" and how true! We are so fortunate in the Narooma district to be free of fast food chains that inevitably lead to this kind of trash blighting our beautiful landscape and long may we be free of those kinds of restaurants and the resulting scourge.



streetscaping to the stairways at Hillcrest and now Carters headland to the new footpath on Wilcocks Avenue. I guess all these works don't come for nothing and someone has to end up paying.

Now the proposed special variation rate rise is already generating some feedback in our letters page, but one cannot help but notice all the works around Narooma at the moment - from the multi-million dollar Flat

Mayor's say ...

Have you heard about the 'I love my local business' campaign? It's a NSW Business Chamber initiative that aims to raise awareness of the vital role that small businesses plays in our communities.

In Australia, small businesses are responsible for almost half of the jobs in the private sector and about one-third of financial value of the sector. In Eurobodalla there are around 2500 small businesses that employ 4 or less people and they are the mainstay of our economy.

Are you supporting them enough?

The convenience of shopping online, or waiting till you're in Canberra or elsewhere to buy up, or using professional services from outside the region can be tempting but next time you think about doing

this, spare a thought for the impact on our community when just one small business employing four people has to shut up shop.

One small business might support a number of families who may have to leave Eurobodalla to seek other jobs.

The combined income of those families and individuals and sometimes extended family members who move with them, will no longer be spent in local shops and on local services.

It won't be contributing to the school fete, our volunteer emergency service fund raisers, the local club, or to Council rates which in turn pay for community and transport infrastructure and services.

When a small business closes because locals are spending their

money elsewhere, there is no new business that pops up in Eurobodalla to fill the space and re-employ people.

It may however pop up in Canberra, Sydney or another city and then the residents of that city will enjoy all the economic and social benefits that this one small business brings.

If every small business in Eurobodalla was able to employ just one extra person, we could wipe out unemployment!

Have I won you over to spending all your money locally yet?

Small businesses play a huge role in providing jobs and driving economic growth and as anyone who has ever owned one as I have, you will know the sacrifice and hard work that are part of the deal.

The 'I love my local business'

Facebook competition is a way to show your favourite small business that you care and I encourage you to visit www.facebook.com/FairTradingNSW and give them the recognition they deserve.

By nominating a business you automatically go into a draw to win one of six prizes of \$250.

More importantly, spend your money locally as often as you can so that we are all part of making Eurobodalla a better place to live.

Please let me know if there is any issue you feel Eurobodalla Shire Council may be able to help you with. You can email me at mayor@eurobodalla.nsw.gov.au or phone me on 0418 279 215.

Clt Lindsay Brown Mayor of Eurobodalla Shire

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

"I Will Survive" thanks

I would like to personally thank all involved in the "I Will Survive" fundraiser event on Saturday, October 18.

I'm so over whelmed by the local community of Narooma's support on the day and leading up to the event.

The event wouldn't have been so successful without the local community so thank you so, so much and thank you to all the businesses in the Eurobodalla that donated items for this event.

Thanks also to Amy Lee Negus for shaving her hair off for breast cancer awareness, Maeve Hanlon for cutting her hair off to make a wig for people who have lost their hair from cancer, Jen the Breast Care Nurse, Sue and Kyle Narooma Community Nurses and Lynda from Moruya Oncology.

Together we raised \$28,000 which means \$14,000 to Breast Cancer Network Australia and \$14,000 to National Breast Cancer Foundation.

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SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Letters to the Narooma News must be signed with the full name and address of the writer and a phone number if possible. Preference will be given to letters that meet a 300 word limit. The Narooma News reserves the right to edit letters. Send your letters to "The Editor", Narooma News, PO Box 443 Narooma NSW 2546 or email: stan.gorton@fairfaxmedia.com.au

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Depth of deception regarding flooding

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The implications of constructing a roundabout and associated works in a high risk flood area were well known before the expenditure of some \$5 million.

Questions were raised regarding the damming effects, height datum levels, changes to the drainage systems and dispersion of dangerous contaminants into a much disturbed water table.

Poor engineering design has increased diversion of damaging storm waters into many properties.

Repeated requests through the general manager to reveal some critical engineering details such as Environmental Impact and Hydraulic Studies remain unanswered.

Findings from recent "Flood Studies" have been "hidden" from the public. Public forum requests to our local representatives, the Mayor and former Deputy Mayor have been ignored.

Findings of a Coastal Adaptation Report by University of Canberra (refer Narooma News) have been ignored.

The exemption of the "Flat" and Bateman's Bay commercial area from the effects of sea level rise and flooding is nothing but a farce and serious questions of "public perception of conflict of interest" remain unanswered.

The reasons for exemption are not what one would expect even from an unqualified planner or engineer. This exemption reaches a new depth in planning deception

Questionable council engineering design and environmental controls have directed substantial volumes of storm waters into a heavily restricted open drain in Barker Street.

Storm waters were further restricted by boundary fences and debris blocked pipe.

Contaminants from a council dump on the same corner of Barker Street may very well have joined residual contaminants from a previous commercial site adjacent to the roundabout.

These contaminants were identified off and off site in "Freedom of Information" reports.

Request to council to identify whether any of the materials removed from this site were disposed of within the Eurobodalla remain unanswered.

We can thank our lucky stars that the peak flood period in this area did not coincide with a significant high tide.

This would have been disastrous and affect more infrastructure and private properties.

Restricted drainage to the inlet systems and inadequate "tidal flaps" or self-regulating flood gates did not help.

They are hinged and require inspection, good maintenance and must of good design and adequate capacity for the purpose intended

If not they will restrict flood waters entering the inlet whether it is a low or high tide.

If sea levels rises and climate change occur that that predicted by the green controlled ESC we had better pack up our old kitbags and head to the hills.

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Letty Lot Narooma

See more letters on page 31

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Narooma News (1)

Narooma News letters: Oct. 29

Oct 29, 2014, 10:40 a.m.

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Peter Bernard

Dalmeny

"I Will Survive" thanks

I would like to personally thank all involved in the "I Will Survive" fundraiser event on Saturday, October 18.

I'm so over whelmed by the local community of Narooma's support on the day and leading up to the event.

The event wouldn't have been so successful without the local community so thank you so, so much and thank you to all the buisnesses in the Eurobodalla that donated items for this event.

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News Business

Search...

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Narooma

Mayor's say... I love my local business

Have you heard about the 'I love my local business' campaign? It's a NSW Business Chamber initiative that aims to raise awareness of the vital role that small business plays in our communities.

In Australia, small businesses are responsible for almost half of the jobs in the private sector and about one third of financial value of the sector. In Eurobodalla there are around 2500 small businesses that employ 4 or less people and they are the mainstay of our economy.

Are you supporting them enough?

The convenience of shopping online, or waiting till you're in Canberra or elsewhere to buy up, or using professional services from outside the region can be tempting but next time you think about doing this, spare a thought for the impact on our community when just one small business employing four people has to shut up shop.

One small business might support a number of families who may have to leave Eurobodalla to seek other jobs.

The combined income of those families and individuals and sometimes extended family members who move with them, will no longer be spent in local shops and on local services.

It won't be contributing to the school fete, our volunteer emergency service fund raisers, the local club, or to Council rates which in turn pay for community and transport infrastructure and services.

When a small business closes because locals are spending their money elsewhere, there is no new business that pops up in Eurobodalla to fill the space and re-employ people.

It may however pop up in Canberra, Sydney or another city and then the residents of that city will enjoy all the economic and social benefits that this one small business brings.

If every small business in Eurobodalla was able to employ just one extra person, we could wipe out unemployment!

Have I won you over to spending all your money locally yet?

Small businesses play a huge role in providing jobs and driving economic growth and as anyone who has ever owned one as I have, you will know the sacrifice and hard work that are part of the deal.

The 'I love my local business' Facebook competition is a way to show your favourite small business that you care and I encourage you to visit www.facebook.com/FairTradingNSW and give them the recognition they deserve.

By nominating a business you automatically go into a draw to win one of six prizes of \$250.

More importantly, spend your money locally as often as you can so that we are all part of making Eurobodalla a better place to live.

Please let me know if there is any issue you feel Eurobodalla Shire Council may be able to help you with. You can email me at mayor@eurocoast.nsw.gov.au or phone me on 0418 279 215.

Clr Lindsay Brown

Mayor of Eurobodalla Shire

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Narooma

Seagrass not an issue

Last week's Narooma news story with Marine Estate power to Primary Industries just goes to show how ineffective and corrupt the Marine Parks have become in Narooma since it started some seven years now.

So let's just steer the ministers department in the direction of the Batemans Marine Park and point a few things out for her department to have a look at.

One of the biggest waste of tax payers and rate payers money would have to be the grant that was given to the ESC to upgrade the Apex boat ramp.

The council have gone to the trouble and drawn up plans and it was all knocked on the head owing to sea grass?

So back the plans went and new ones drawn up all good so far except the Marine Park Authority has lied to us again this time about sea grass and not to forget Nangudga Lake.

In fact they the MPA cannot even quote how much would be effected because the answers are coming from somebody high up who is feeding his department lies and this would be the reason the minister is taking charge.

The fact is you cannot get an answer from anybody on the cost and now the council has to re-apply for more funding just to do a simple upgrade that is now 19 months and still going.

It would be good if the minister makes the MP pay back the funds wasted.

But on the bright side now we know the sea grass is not a problem just as a major catch up to have sufficient boat facility's in Narooma Mill Bay and the Loop Boat ramps are in desperate need of pontoons as we have suffered long enough in Narooma.

Dave Clark

President Narooma Fishing Club

World at the brink of disaster

I know not what weapons World War III will be fought with, but World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones.

The above words come from Albert Einstein, perhaps he didn't count on the onset of the radicals called Ebola.

Ebola forces have no Super Hornets or MIGs that hovers above the clouds delivering sidewinder missiles all it requires is a little droplet.

Ebola is probably only true risk to our way of life unless it is contained rapidly, are we doing enough along with the rest of the western world to stop it on its tracks, you be the judge of that.

According to some world will only have till December this year if we wish to stop the spread of the epidemic.

Man has no weapons against Ebola virus and according to medical science earliest we can expect to have an experimental vaccine will be some time in 2015. Houston, we have a problem, not enough funding in the research around the globe.

We and the rest of the so called civilized world rather spend our public funds in obtaining better and more powerful submarines and extra super, super Hornets rather than concentrate in easing of man's suffering around the globe.

Ebola has no permanent home address, it may find a new post office box in Australia anytime soon, are we prepared?

USA has allocated 20 beds in specially prepared hospitals to care for Ebola patients, how many beds do we prepare in NSW to meet Ebola?

When hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans some years ago USA didn't have sufficient number of busses to ferry the people out of New Orleans city football stadium for weeks, so I ask how well are they prepared for Ebola, are twenty beds sufficient?

How well has US prepared to exit from Iraq on this occasion, and do we Australians have an exit plan for our troops that required written guarantee from Iraqi rulers that our troops are not a subject for legal prosecution later on when the bodies have been buried.

It appears that Albert Einstein is right when he stated that sometime in the future wars will be fought with sticks and stones, there will be plenty of stones on earth to fight the war especially in Middle East after we have turned the cities into rubble.

Today, as we remember great Australian Gough Whitlam on his passing and we pay homage to the man who had vision to withdraw from the conflict in 1972 and end conscription to the war that we had no right to be involved in, perhaps one day we will again have the leader of Whitlam's vision for peace rather than constant conflict.

Mark Ikonen

Dalmeny

Roads, rates and rubbish

They say you are never too old to learn, but even little old me was surprised last week to read the Eurobodalla Shire Council's flyer about its upcoming ratepayer survey. What surprised me?

Was it that the ESC was conducting a survey (even about constituents' happiness to pay higher rates); or that I seem not to have been one of the 600 selected to be interviewed?

No, it was that apparently council's role is no longer "rates, roads and rubbish".

Colour me stupid, but that is exactly what I thought councils existed for!

But no, as governments at higher levels have stopped providing services, it seems their functions must be subsumed by local government.

In taking up the burdens of environmental protection, nuclear non-proliferation, beautifying the cityscape, providing ancillary health services, gay marriage for adult wombats (not that there is anything wrong with cohabitation by consenting wombat adults), etc.

Council finds it can no longer afford to provide such mundane services as roads and rubbish management.

At least, judging by the perfection of local roads, one can only assume that they no longer need maintenance.

So, after due consultation, we, the ESC residents, will no doubt be told in 2015 that we may have to up the ante via higher rates.

Which personally I can live with - providing I see an improvement in basic services.

At the moment I must confess that my heart bursts with civic pride when surveying the beautified main street of my local city, Narooma.

Millions well spent, obviously!

Far better value than fixing the leaking roof of the Sports and Leisure Centre.

Much sexier use of public funds than grading, (or, heaven forbid! sealing) local goat tracks.

And I also noted that the Shire contains some 54 public toilets - fine facilities all, especially for the older amongst us, who can't necessarily tie and untie knots as we could when younger. Just a shame that Council can't find the money to pay cleaners to occasionally maintain them: the gents' behind the Batemans Bay Information Centre has apparently never met a brush, or bottle of disinfectant...

So, fellow citizens, when casting your vote at the next local government election, remember the ERA councillors, who fight for sanity, reality and boring, basic services.

And remember also the others, who want the Shire to be a Green oasis where feral animals holiday, roads are designed for sulky drivers (I can feel myself going a little hoarse, even sulky, at the thought!) and progress takes us back to the halcyon days of the 90s - the 1890s!

S. Kennedy

Corunna

No need for special rates

Recently I received a folder and card from Eurobodalla Shire Council, advising that Council has engaged the services of Micromex Research Consultants, to ascertain Ratepayers' attitudes toward a proposed Special Rate Variation.

Is there no limit to the way Council will waste money?

This exercise is, metaphorically, asking turkeys to vote for Christmas.

Presuming that only Ratepayers are contacted, I think it safe to assume the proposal will not be well received.

What will this research project cost, and why does Council need to research a question they already should know the answer to?

ESC is fond of advising that our rates are lower than comparative shires elsewhere. Name names please.

I have yet to see figures nominating the percentages of gross income spent by ESC on wages and salaries, and staff overheads such as superannuation, long service leave provisions etc,

Council could well look to improving its own efficiency levels. To take the example of the proposed improvements to the Apex Park boat ramp.

This project has been stalled and obstructed by council green tape for well over a year.

The initial blockage was to study the impact on "rare and endangered sea grass". For goodness sake, how many square metres would be involved? We are not talking about a new Suez Canal here, and a boat trip around Wagonga Inlet reveals plenty of seagrass to be seen.

Council should limit its expenditure to areas within its core responsibilities and live within its means.

A current example of extra-curricular activity is the scheduled Chinese introduction workshop, purportedly for businesses wishing to reach the Chinese market.

All well and good, but not a council concern at all.

If council stuck to its core agenda, and managed well, there would be no need to call for a Special Rate Variation.

Frank O'Brien

Narooma

From the Editor's desk

JUST imagine for a moment that the estimated \$US1.7 trillion spent in the first ten years of the second Iraq war had been spent on Ebola eradication.

A study released on the tenth anniversary of the second invasion of Iraq showed the US had spent that huge sum and was likely to spend up to another \$6 trillion in the next forty years paying benefits to war veterans.

Australia's contribution to that misguided effort a few years ago had reached an estimated \$30 billion.

In 1976, the Ebola virus was first noted in the poverty stricken African nations of Sudan and Zaïre.

Named for Zaïre's Ebola River, the virus seemed a long way from any developed nation.

Today, it is at our doorstep.

Civil-strife torn Sudan has known more of war than it has of health care for many decades.

Controlling a major infectious disease outbreak was never going to be possible without a massive influx of western help and the international community's insistence that war come to an end in Sudan.

Even those west African nations that were not suffering civil war did not have the health infrastructure or the funds to contain Ebola.

Like malaria for so many years, Ebola fell into the basket of someone else's - a much poorer someone else's - problem.

Now it belongs to all of us.

An estimated 10,000 people are infected in a part of the world which has no chance of dealing with Ebola's exponential growth.

If a fraction of the put into prosecution on spurious grounds had instead been put into fighting this disease, Texas may not have had to announce its first Ebola death.

If these funds had been spent sooner rather than later, compassionate health workers would not be anxiously awaiting the results of their own tests.

The warped priorities of those who prosecuted war, rather than giving a hand up to the developing world, have come back to bite us all.

> VOX POP: Who is your hero?



Doug Pearson DALMENY
"Gough Whitlam. Years after he was prime minister, school children are still reaping the benefits of the resources he made available."



Sandra Cameron MORUYA
"My best friend Merle Hogno. She is brave and cheerful."



Therese Tonne MALUA BAY
"Mr and Mrs Morcombe, for what they have been through and what they are doing at the moment."



Irene Shallick NORTH BATEMANS BAY
"My friend Allan Edwards, who devotes his time to help others through charity work."



Caitlin Piper BRAIDWOOD
"My Dad. He is honest and doesn't take life too seriously."

Why bother?

EUROBODALLA Shire Council recently called for submissions on whether or not it should grant the South Coast Hunters Club a variation to the HuntFest licence that would permit the sale of guns and ammunition at HuntFest in 2015.

Although the survey results won't formally be considered by council until November 25, preliminary figures indicate that about 60 per cent are opposed to the sale of guns.

Nevertheless, following a rally on October 14 of opponents of guns at HuntFest outside council chambers and addresses of opposition in public forum preceding the council meeting, Councillors Pollock, Burnside, Innes and Leslight were reported in the local press as not intending to change their support for the variation.

It therefore seems plain that these councillors intend to vote to approve the variation despite the overwhelming opposition expressed in council's own survey.

The consultation looks like being a sham; so much for democracy.

Alan Basher Dalmeny

Framework all guesswork

COUNCIL is about to review public submissions before considering its proposed South Coast Regional Sea Level Rise planning and Policy Response Framework.

Six thousand property owners in the shire are directly affected.

To meet its public trust community leadership duties, Code of Conduct and ethical decision-making standards, council has no alternative but to reject the draft.

Why? The reason is graphically revealed in the frontispiece chart of the submission from 11 renowned independent climate scientists from Australia, New Zealand, Denmark, Norway, USA, UK and Sweden.

The chart, Elevation v Age, plots many thousands of individual inter-tidal shoreline deposits over the past 10,000 years.

It constitutes observed evidence showing the "unmistakable pattern of wide variations in rates of tectonic (Earth's crust) uplift and subsidence in different locations".

The clear message of this evidence, hugely reinforced

by the submission's 13 main conclusions and recommendations, is that local coastal management can rely only on "local sea level, local relative sea level changes and local geological, meteorological and oceanographical conditions".

This requires basing management policies on the measured local rates of sea level rise (eg Fort Denison's 1886-2010 mean trend rate of 0.65mm/year [6.5cm/100yr]).

Thus, no effective coastal management plan can rely upon speculative computer projections of future global sea-level, as does the proposed Framework.

In it, the measured Fort Denison tidal gauge trend rate is lost in the computer-guessed rate of future global sea level rise, over five times greater in this century, allegedly due to increased global warming from man-made CO2 emissions.

Strangely, the Framework's authors believe it is in order to guess the 100 years ahead, but ignore the present continuing 18-year-long global surface warming hiatus, with its rising CO2 emissions.

Council sought this Framework. Who planned it? Council will ignore or override this evidence at its own and its ratepayers' property

and financial cost.

Heville Hughes Surf Beach

Rae's brilliant career

THE Eurobodalla's education community will lose one of its most dedicated supporters when Dr Rae Luckie, from the University of Wollongong's Batemans Bay campus, retires.

Rae moved to Batemans Bay in 2009 to establish the Graduate Diploma in Education course, which meant Eurobodalla residents could complete their teacher training without having to move away.

Rae devoted herself wholeheartedly to this very challenging task and as a result of her dedication the program has thrived and will continue to expand in the coming years.

Rae's driving motivation has ensured that our school children will be taught by caring, professional and well-trained teachers.

She has also given generously to school children as a mentor for young writers, performers and debaters.

Rae and Barry also support many community arts and service organisations in their spare time.

Those who have had the privilege of working with her have appreciated her constant support and encouragement.

We thank you, Rae, and wish you all the very best for the next phase of your brilliant career.

P Cullen and K O'Grady Tarons Head

Falling down

HOW unlucky is the Eurobodalla Shire?

A couple of years ago this paper ran numerous articles about the disastrous state of the building industry and showed that the shire lagged behind the Bega and Shoalhaven shires in building development approvals.

There were letters to the editor telling of problems with the shire's building department and evidence from the Australian Bureau of Statistics showing building approvals had fallen like lemmings off a cliff.

Council, in response, said it was all due to the global financial crisis which the rest of Australia had managed to avoid. The councillors accepted this response 5 to 4.

Now NSW has been ranked as Australia's strongest state economy on the back of a boom in the building industry, a boom that has tragically by-passed the Eurobodalla.

Even though it is closer to Sydney, Wollongong and Canberra, this shire still ranks behind Bega.

How bad does it have to get and how compelling does the evidence need to be before Eurobodalla's councillors stop squabbling with each other, do the right thing by their constituents and support local business?

Michael Johnson Tarons Head

What do residents really need?

BEFORE even considering applying for a special rate variation, council, and ratepayers, would be better served if a truly independent operational and efficiency audit were conducted into council affairs.

Two basic issues need to be addressed.

The first is whether the services provided by council are of relevance to

the majority of ratepayers. Second, are those services being provided efficiently and economically?

Council says it needs to provide a greater range of services to meet community needs and expectations than was historically the case.

This may be true to a degree but given the bureaucratic monopoly we are dealing with, would

it be too outlandish to suggest that some of these services are the result of covert empire building?

The focus, first and foremost, should be on the provision of essential services.

I cannot see a benefit in upgrading Moruya Airport.

Should council continue to conjure up projects to keep staff employed, such

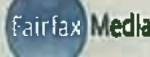
as the mammoth, doomed to failure Hanging Rock redevelopment?

Such questions, obviously reflecting a personal point of view, would simply be a starting point in deciding which services are of relevance and the manner in which they should be provided.

Bert Hardy Long Beach

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From the Editor's desk

A FEW words stand out in the commentary following the death of Gough Whitlam.

"I would not have been able to go to uni without him," – or words to that effect – have been repeated by so many people.

The former ALP prime minister will be remembered for many things – many larger than life, many of them sometimes bigger than the budget could stand.

But the single act of making university education free also freed up a whole generation of children from working and rural families to be productive in ways their parents could not have imagined.

In the Whitlam era, my older sisters were the first, on either side of my family, to attend university.

Their grandfathers were a Sydney brick layer and a Queensland timbercutter and their father was an electrician.

One sister stuck it out and powered into her career.

The other decided university was not for her – and powered into an alternative career.

Either way, they were given the chance and both benefited.

Australian teens still have far more choices than others around the world, but today university is not something every student of aptitude can afford.

For a society which prides itself on an egalitarian ethos, that it is a step backward.

A clever country is a productive country, and drawing from as wide a pool as possible makes sense in a globally competitive environment.

Education gives us such things as skilled health workers, who also add to our collective productivity.

It gives us great scientists.

Investing in the future of all who wish to learn, not just those from a narrow stream, is a clever decision.

Gough – it was a good investment – and, as a canny businessman on the other side of the political divide shares on page 5 – so was Blue Poles!

Xhemlani aside, check out the current price tag on Jackson Pollock's stunning canvas!

> VOX POP: Are you concerned about the spread of the Ebola virus?



Marguerite Gardner
SUNSHINE BAY
"Yes, it's frightening. It could get out of hand."



Pam Kench
BLUE MOUNTAINS
"Yes, I don't think testing people when they arrive at the airport is doing any good. I think they should be tested when they are leaving countries with Ebola. It makes you wonder if it could become a pandemic."



Deborah Wilkins
WA
"I think everyone is. I think it will eventually come to Australia."



Linda Rose
SURF BEACH
"I think we all need to be aware. I am concerned about the preventative measures that are being taken at airports"



Belinda Shaw
LONG BEACH
"I think we need to be more vigilant at our airports. I am concerned how quickly the virus can spread."

Shades of praise

I THANK the *Eurobodalla Independent* so much for the great article about the Festival of Voice, which was held during the Granite Town festival on Saturday.

The photo of Shades of Monday came out beautifully.

When they came to Moruya Golf Club to get ready for their performance, I showed them the article and they gave whoops of delight.

They all took copies home with them.

Many thanks once again.

Gloria Bell
Batemans Bay

In Greens' grip

YOUR readers may not be aware that Councillor Milton Leslight is one of the ERA councillors who fought on behalf of residents for the abandonment of the toxic LEP, and removal of the equally toxic bio-certification land trading scheme, promoted by the Greens and blindly adopted by non-ERA councillors.

He is the only councillor so far to stand up against council's proposed 25 per

cent rate rise.

For those living in low-lying areas around Mummuga Lake in Dalmeny, he is the only councillor who has taken up the fight to repeal the interim sea-level rise policy and to replace it with a sensible policy that does not devalue the value of coastal property or further damage the Eurobodalla's economy.

As if the mayor has not done enough to trade off community land rights in order to gain the Greens vote in council, we are now told that he has removed Cr Leslight as chairman of the Coastal Management Advisory Committee and replaced him with a Greens councillor.

The 6000 affected ratepayers will be ecstatic to learn that the Greens now have control of the advisory body that will guide the final sea-level rise policy and coastal management plan.

With the Greens calling the shots, and the mayor requesting 55 coastal councils in NSW to adopt his latest sea-level rise report before it was placed on public exhibition, there is no chance that council will take a realistic approach to the sea-level rise issue.

Our only hope is for Shoalhaven City Council to reject the latest joint sea-level rise report in recognition of the damage it could do to its economy, or for the state government to stop shirking its responsibility in relation to sea-level rise policy development.

Ian Hitchcock
Dalmeny

Please talk with us

I WAS disappointed to read Brian Smith's letter (*Bay Post/Moruya Examiner*, October 22) regarding two council staff asking Moruya Country Market stallholders to pull down their stalls on time so Granite Town could set up Eat Street on Saturday.

Market committee members were shown copies of emails that show Granite Town tried to communicate with the committee as far back as April, all of which were not responded to.

I also tried to call market committee members on the October long weekend to discuss the festival plans.

As a result of this, the festival committee asked the council staff to make sure we could use the area.

We would love to engage

with the market committee well before the 2015 Granite Town and seek a meeting in the next month or so to ensure these two great community events can work closely together.

The council staff in question have been the backbone of our success this year and need a pat on the back.

I thank also all the government agencies which helped to make it a weekend to remember.

Stephen Matthews
Granite Town president

A resounding no to council

DEAR council, No, no, no, no, no and no to a special rate variation.

That is the feedback from our family of Congo residents.

Restrict your spending to only that which is currently approved and any additional amounts available in future by virtue of the NSW Government's Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal's pre-approved rate pegs.

As members of the Eurobodalla community we say that the standard of infrastructure and services

funded through the current revenue is acceptable.

We do not want a park upgrade and more bitumen access to what you once proudly referred to as "Primitive Congo".

We certainly do not want to pay for upgrades to facilities in other communities.

Perhaps if you had not spent unapproved money on presenting your imaginings in glossy brochures to all and sundry (as well as additional marketing and promotional activities associated with your unapproved gambit, eg the unapproved Micromer Research sample survey), you would have had some additional, already approved funds to spend on the most urgent of your wish-list of upgrades to services and infrastructure.

We consider your grab for more money from hard-working, honest ratepayers to be offensive.

The Todd family
Congo

A straw to break the camel's back

THE management of Eurobodalla Shire Council has been saying for years that there isn't enough rates revenue to provide all the things that residents expect council to provide.

As a result, over the past couple of decades various levies were imposed to create new revenue streams.

These are linked to the CPI with annual com-

pounding increases, and are also unregulated increases.

The levies and the annual increases were expected to provide maintenance funds and funds for public assets such as playground equipment.

Most shire residents must manage on weekly incomes, and live within their means.

Unfortunately, they are unable to make submissions to government bodies such as IPART to increase their income to pay the ever-increasing costs imposed on them by council.

If an increase in council rates is approved by IPART, those on fixed incomes already paying high electricity and petrol prices

will be required to find more money to pay council.

How much does council think people can really pay to live in this shire?

It really is time council became more responsible and used its revenues more wisely and efficiently.

Allan Brown
Batemans Bay

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 Nicole Lockyer —
August 18, 2014

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 Eurobodalla Shire Council

Ratepayers will find an information brochure in their mail boxes this week about a proposal to fund a package of community and transport infrastructure projects and works through a special rate variation. 600 ratepayers will also be contacted by phone and invited to take part in a 15 minute survey about the proposal. Read more about the proposal, the projects, why Council is considering a rate rise to fund them and how you can give us your feedback, in the brochure and on our website.

Comments on this page won't be taken as feedback for this proposal - we encourage you to email or write to Council to have your say.

<http://bnyurl.com/nngq49j>

Funding our future - Eurobodalla Shire Council

We are seeking your feedback on a package of community and transport infrastructure projects that are important to our community. Your feedback will help Council decide in December if it should consider a special rate variation as a way to fund them in the future. If this goes ahead, the rate variat

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News Business

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Bay Post MORUYA (1)

\$200 rates hike predicted by 2017

By KATE RYAN

Oct. 17, 2014, 6 a.m.

The average Eurobodalla ratepayer will pay more than \$200 extra on their annual rates bill by 2017-2018 if a proposed variation is approved.

Eurobodalla Shire Council is considering a special rates variation (SRV) which, if accepted, would be imposed on the 2015-16 rates.

The NSW Government's Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) has the power to allow local governments to increase rates above the current pegged rate for a set period.

Last year, IPART pegged ordinary rate increases to 2.3 per cent.

Next year it will be pegged at 3 per cent.

The council has proposed applying for a SRV to increase rates from 2015-16 by a further five per cent, for three years.

This would mean an increase, compounding each year, of about eight per cent.

The average ratepayer, now paying an estimated \$818.80 per year, would in 2015-16 pay \$883.76.

That amounts to an increase of \$65.46.

The following year, the same ratepayer would pay \$954.47 after an additional increase of \$70.71 was imposed.

That amounts to an extra \$136.17 on the current amount.

In the third year, the average ratepayer would pay \$1030.82, an increase of \$212.52 on the current year, after a third increase of \$76.35 was imposed.

On December 9, the council will decide if it intends to apply to IPART for the variation.

Without the variation, rates would rise by 3 per cent each year for three years under existing IPART approvals.

To be eligible for the variation, the council must prove it is unable to fund infrastructure and services at a standard acceptable to the community with current revenue.

It must also undertake community consultation, already underway with the release of the Funding our Future brochure on the council's website and in libraries.

The brochure explains why council would consider a rate rise, what it would be used for and how it would affect residential, farming and business ratepayers.

Council said the funds would be used for improving roads, footpaths, community buildings, parks and sporting ground maintenance.

If the council applies for the variation, it would be exhibited in December this year.

IPART would notify the council of its decision in June 2015, in time for the increase to be included in the rates bill for the financial year 2015-16.

From the Editor's desk

WHEN a flotilla of lanterns is launched tonight in the Moruya River - take a deep breath, and wish the entire Granite Town Festival the best of luck.

Blowing good fortune will be the brass section of the Moruya Brass Band, the Eurobodalla community, from north to south, that will make or break this ambitious rebranding.

Each year, for several years, the hard-working volunteer committee of the original Moruya Jazz Festival had threatened to resign.

Pleading exhaustion, illness and just plain aging bones, the stalwarts kept appealing for new blood.

Each year, not enough arrived, so each year, the same faces kept the much-loved show on the road.

Finally after last year's festival, the committee folded.

Firstly, though, it threw itself on the mercy of the Moruya Business Chamber.

Thankfully, Stephen Matthews, who cheerfully admitted what he knew of music could be written on a pub coaster, stepped up with other willing members to ensure a festival would be held in 2014.

Thankfully again, someone who did know something of music, the enthusiastic Moruya High School graduate Virginia Quirk, also threw her hat in the ring.

She had spent several years organising live shows up and down Australia's east coast for her living.

That she had returned to her family stamping ground of Congo, with a fat contact book of musicians to draw on, was harmonious timing.

She showed up at a meeting after reading a story in the *Bay Post/Moruya Examiner* and said: "Can I help?"

Yes, the mix of music is different.

No, not everyone will like all of it. But, my goodness, has this rookie crew not made a fist of their first attempt, with some huge names, playing in a huge tent, on the banks of our hugely lovely Moruya River?

It's a huge effort - and it deserves our dancing support.

> VOX POP: Have you heard about council's proposed eight per cent a year rate rise for three years?



Patricia Howkins
LONG BEACH
"Yes, I've heard about it and I'm not impressed. It seems like every year they dream a new levy or rate rise."



Wayne Schutz
CATALINA
"No, I haven't heard anything about it."



Judy Dewick
LONG BEACH
"Yes, I have heard about it but I don't agree with it. I think we pay enough as it is."



Ross MacAlpin
TUROSS HEAD
"I've been away for three-and-a-half months so I don't know anything about it. Eight per cent is a bit excessive; perhaps better management would fix the problem."



Errol Ralston
LONG BEACH
"Yes, I know about it. I'm not against it, if council does what it says it will. It would be nice to see a toilet put in at Long Beach. We've been asking for that for years."

Make boating fun and safe

THE results from the first boating campaign of the season have resulted in a reminder for boaters to keep an eye on their speed and ensure they are aware of NSW lifejacket laws.

Information collated by 48 Roads and Maritime Services boating safety officers who stopped more than 2400 vessels during Operation Be Prepared showed an 88 per cent compliance rate with boating safety requirements.

During the operation, which aimed to ensure boaters were properly prepared for the new boating season, 174 fines and 112 formal warnings were issued to boaters.

While there is still room for improvement, this shows most people who go boating are doing the right thing and ensuring they check the conditions and weather before and during their journey, carry out safety checks on their boat before launch, and carry all required safety equipment.

The majority of fines were for not wearing lifejackets when required to do so, despite more people than ever wearing lifejackets on

NSW waters, including 18 per cent of boaters who during Operation Be Prepared were found to be wearing lifejackets voluntarily, when they were not required to by law.

Lifejackets are more comfortable than they have ever been, and we strongly encourage people to put on one every time they go boating.

Lifejackets in boats are like seatbelts in cars, they really can make a difference in a capsizing or other mishap when you are on the water.

Speeding led to 24 fines during the operation, the majority going to skippers in Sydney waters.

Skippers should remember they must travel at a safe speed at all times, regardless of whether there are signs indicating speed limits in an area.

A safe speed cannot be expressed as a maximum or minimum number of knots because it varies with circumstances and conditions; the skipper must continually assess the safety of the vessel's speed.

While fatalities dropped in the past two decades, with a third fewer boating fatalities recorded in the year to June 30 compared with the previous year, any death is a

tragedy. We all know how much fun boating can be but we need to do everything we can to ensure it is also as safe as possible.

Angus Mitchell, maritime director
Roads and Maritime Services

Saying it like it is

AS a child in the 1950s there was a common saying: "sticks and stones can break your bones, but names can never hurt you".

How things have changed, when one can't even voice an opinion for fear of being called racist.

Seemingly, there are rules for some and not for others. In recent weeks, we hear the statement that "people should be able to wear whatever they like".

Does this mean we can also, freely, wear nothing at all?

I think not! There are rules which must be adhered to and, as I see it, to completely cover up one's body except for a slit for the eyes, especially in this hot climate, is ridiculous.

As a woman I feel affronted to see females (although one can't be sure) wearing burkas, because, as much as they

insist it is their choice, it seems to show a blatantly obvious repression of females by males.

Repression is also seen in many other ways by Muslim men over their women.

To free-thinking women, these poor, brainwashed, covered-ups are sad indeed.

It also seems wrong that some people are allowed to be labelled by their religion rather than the country in which they reside; an insult to other Australians and the country.

It would be pretty confusing if we all called ourselves Catholics, Presbyterians, Atheists, Agnostics, or a thousand other possible group names.

This is not the Australian way and despite all those who are prominent in declaring that Australia has no culture, I wish to disagree.

This country was pioneered and settled by the English, Scottish and Irish, along with their customs and culture.

Now we hear the word multiculturalism over and over again, as if there was nothing before migrants from so many other places arrived.

As much as I regret the invasion of Australia by the British and acknowledge the

tragedy of what they did to the original inhabitants, I resent the continued omission of those pioneers and original Australian culture.

Yes, we have many other ways now, but don't dismiss Australia's first settlers and pioneers, who made the place that everyone else now wants to live in.

I will be surprised if my opinions on the above-mentioned subjects are printed, but I can assure you that they are what the majority of us ageing non-racist Australians think.

Diana Honan
Moruya

Timely reply

I THANK Stafford Ray for his contribution to the debate on the theory of catastrophic anthropogenic global warming.

Unfortunately, he treads a well-worn path.

Like every other "true believer" who criticises me and Neville Hughes in these pages, his contribution is nothing more than an appeal to the comprehensively discredited "97 per cent consensus" claim.

Neville and I know all about the 97 per cent.

Consensus is a political, not a scientific, concept.

It would be a refreshing change to see someone address the specific points we make.

By the way, if Stafford is worried about what might happen to his waterfront property in the next 200 to 500 years, perhaps he could let me know what eldorado he is taking.

I could use a few more years on my allotted span, too.

Peter O'Brien
Catalina

It's a state government responsibility

OVER many years a lot has been said about likely sea-level rises as a result of global warming.

The effect, estimated or predicted, that sea-level rise might have on people, property values and other assets is unknown; perhaps it never will be.

The state government has attempted to wipe its

hands of any potential liability if the sea-level rise predictions were to actually eventuate, and encourages local government in affected areas to establish policies that will absolve councils of liability and put all or part of the onus on individuals.

Sounds good, doesn't it. The best part, though, is

that the state government has to approve any policy that any council attempts to put in place.

The truth is, the state government is unable to absolve itself from any involvement in likely outcomes policies or potential future liability because it is the state legislator and regulator whose rules and

decisions are supreme over local government.

The state government most definitely is involved in sea-level rise policy outcomes.

They really should introduce state rules for all of it.

Allan Brown
Batemans Bay

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Bay Post [MORUYA \(1\)](#)

Eurobodalla rate rise plan

Oct. 15, 2014, 9:38 a.m.



EUROBODALLA Shire Council wants residents to look out for a brochure in their mail boxes about a proposal to fund community and transport infrastructure projects and works from a special rate variation.

Council's general manager Dr Catherine Dale says the Funding our Future brochure explains why council would consider a rate rise as a way to fund the projects, what it would be used for and how it would affect residential, farming and business ratepayers.

"Upgrades to sporting facilities, community halls and playgrounds, parks, roads, bridge and pathways and improvements to the accessibility of playgrounds, viewing platforms and toilets have been identified as priorities by council and

residents and are included in the package," Dr Dale said.

"The brochure includes a summary of the savings and efficiencies that council has already achieved in the past few years, and the financial challenges of continuing to maintain and renew infrastructure at an acceptable standard in the future."

"It is important that the community has the opportunity to understand the proposal and provide feedback before councillors decide in December if council should notify the NSW Government that it intends to apply for a rate variation next year.

"Part of our community engagement will be consulting with a representative sample of 600 ratepayers in an independent 15-minute telephone survey that will be conducted by Micromex Research.

"The information in the brochure or on council's website will help you if you are asked to, and agree to, take part in the survey."

Residents can provide feedback on the proposals by letter or email to council.

Details are in the brochure, on www.esc.nsw.gov.au and in information packs at Batemans Bay, Moruya and Narooma libraries and council offices in Moruya.

HuntFest arms comment

TODAY, Wednesday, October 8, is the deadline to make a public submission to the proposal to have guns for sale at future Narooma HuntFest events.

The Eurobodalla Shire Council in 2013 granted a five-year licence to the South Coast Hunters Club to conduct its HuntFest event at NATA Reserve allowing for the display of firearms.

The club has since applied for an amendment to that approval, seeking an unrestricted arms fair permit - allowing for the sale of firearms and ammunition - as well as requesting to operate a mobile air rifle range.

Public submissions on the amendment must be received by council today.

Opponents of Narooma's HuntFest meanwhile have found several high-profile supporters in renowned Fairfax journalist Peter FitzSimons and former Deputy Prime Minister Tim Fischer.

FitzSimons spoke to the *Bega District News* last week.

"We don't need them (guns), we don't want them, and I fully support those in the Eurobodalla trying to put a stop to this hunting festival."

The South Coast Hunters Club meanwhile said this year's event only included a display of firearms, whereas under the changes they could be sold at the event, if the appropriate permits were obtained.

"People will not be coming just to buy firearms - it's more about the show."

Read the full report on www.naroomanews.com.au

Free micro-chipping day

EUROBODALLA Shire Council is reminding pet owners that the best way to keep their cats and dogs safe and on the right side of the law is to register them for life.

Before they are registered, pets must be micro-chipped and council is inviting you to bring them to a free micro-chipping day at the Maruya pound on Saturday, October 18 from 9am to 1pm.

The move is part of council's efforts to continue to reduce the number of unidentified and unregistered pets in our community which, in turn, helps rangers keep track of lost, straying and menacing animals.

The NSW Government's Companion Animal database shows that just 62 per cent of micro-chipped dogs and 21 per cent of micro-chipped cats have been lifetime registered.

The NSW Companion Animal Act 1998 requires all dogs and cats to be micro-chipped by 12 weeks of age and before they are sold or given away. They must also be lifetime registered from six months' old and wear a collar with an identification tag.

Council's free micro-chipping offer will save between \$45 and \$62.

Lifetime registration costs between \$20 and \$188 depending on whether you are a pensioner, a breeder or if your animal is desexed.

Penalties apply for failing to register your pet. For more information on companion animal registration please phone Council on 4474 1000 or email council@eurobodalla.nsw.gov.au

Creepy crawlies at the library



CRAWLY ARTWORK: The Narooma Library as part of the school holiday activities held a "Creepy Crawlies" workshop to take children on a journey with council's environment education officer who introduced them to the amazing world of the different water bugs which live in our wetlands and waterways. Pictured with their artwork are Francesca Smith and Tahila Robertson.

Mumbulla Ball

GET ready to wine, dine, dance and raise money for a good cause at the Midsummer Night's Dream Ball, The Mumbulla Foundation's annual night of nights on Saturday, 25 October at Oaklands Event Centre in Pambula.

The Mumbulla Foundation Gala Charity Dinner is the major annual fundraiser of the Foundation and all money raised at the dinner goes to the community.

Last year the Foundation awarded funding of over \$72,000 in total to not-for-profit groups. Book your tickets online at www.mumbulla.org.au

Lunar eclipse

THE Narooma district will get another chance to enjoy another total lunar eclipse tonight, Wednesday, October 8, after the previous "super moon" eclipse event back in April.

Local star watcher and photographer David Andrews said the lunar eclipse would begin at 7.15pm and reach peak totality at 9.25pm.



I WILL SURVIVE: Kate Bourke, Jess Bourke and Bonnie Barton dressed in pink and collecting funds for the "I will survive" breast cancer awareness campaign at the Great Southern Blues Festival at Narooma.

"I will survive" fun day next weekend

THE "I will survive" family fun day and fundraising event is less than two weeks away at Club Narooma on Saturday, October 18.

Jessica Bourke, herself a breast cancer survivor, and the "I will survive" committee have organised this fundraiser to raise awareness about breast cancer and raise money for research.

"Our fundraiser would not be successful without the help of Club

Narooma as well as our local community of the Eurobodalla," Jess said.

"We have received lots of generous donations for our prizes. I'm so overwhelmed by our community's generosity."

On the day, there will be a jumping castle, face painting, live music by Thundergoose and Glenn Mood.

There will be having lucky dip tickets of three different price

ranges. "For example, for a \$50 ticket you will receive a balloon with a number on it you take the balloon with you to the prize table to collect your lucky dip prize that corresponds with your number," Jess said.

"There will be \$25, \$50 and \$100 limited ticket balloons some prizes include, hair products, clothing, bags, vouchers and more."

There will also be live auctions

with items including a signed Newcastle Knights and a Bulldogs jersey, V8 hot laps and local art sculptures, as well as silent auctions with prizes including weekend away and accommodation, power tools and a bird bath, vouchers and more.

The "I will survive" girls meanwhile were out in force at the Narooma Blues Festival collecting \$1095 in donations from the patrons.

Club donation to purchase submarine model

PLANS continue at Club Narooma and the RSL Sub-branch for the 100-year anniversary of Gallipoli to be commemorated on ANZAC Day next year.

Narooma Sporting and Services Club general manager Tony Casu recently presented to the RSL Narooma Sub-branch a cheque for \$1700 to assist in the 2015 Gallipoli Commemoration Project.

The specially designed cheque features the image of Australia's second 'E' class submarine (AE2).

The funds from club members will be used to purchase a museum quality 24-inch model of AE2, which will take 20 weeks to construct with its planned delivery being mid-January 2015.

Project administrator Ian Noormets said the Narooma community was indeed fortunate, as the Australian War Memorial had already commissioned the model company to build an AE2 model for the memorial and had submitted detailed plans.

"The manufacturer stated that they would duplicate the Memorial's model details to



SUBMARINE CHEQUE: 2015 Gallipoli Commemoration Project administrator Ian Noormets accepts the special submarine cheque from Narooma Sporting and Services Club general manager Tony Casu.

ours," Ian Noormets said.

"The procurement of this museum quality model is to show the community's appreciation to the service of this vessel that was ordered to penetrate the Dardanelles on April 25, 1915 and to commemorate the deaths of four of its crewmen in

captivity.

They were Petty Officer Stephen John Gilbert RAN No. 8053, Able Seaman Albert Edward Knaggs RAN No. 7893, Stoker Michael Williams RAN No. 2305 and Chief Stoker Charles Varcoe RAN No. 8275.

Ian Noormets said that this model would complement the Lighthouse diorama that various individuals, business and community clubs were currently assembling.

The submarine model and Lighthouse diorama will enable the Narooma com-

munity to have a hands-on participation in the 2015 Gallipoli commemoration, which will open on ANZAC Day 2015 at Club Narooma.

Community members that still want to get involved can contact Ian Noormets on 44768796.

"Let's not forget."

Council considers rate rise

EUROBODALLA Shire Council has endorsed a package of community and transport infrastructure projects that may be considered as the basis of a special rate variation application along with plans of how it will discuss the projects and the proposal with the community over the next few months.

The proposal to apply for a variation was being put forward as a way for council to address the challenge of how to fund the needs and expectation of the community in the future, general manager Dr Catherine Dale said.

The proposal is for a 5 per cent increase in general rates above the NSW Government's rate peg each year for three years.

"Despite having made significant operational savings, improving efficiency and productivity and having strategies in place to ensure this continues, council's long term financial plans show that there will not be enough income to maintain and renew infrastructure at a standard that the community expects in the future," Dr

Dale said.

"We are inviting everyone to provide feedback on the proposed package of infrastructure projects."

Consultation will include an information pack that will be posted to ratepayers, a community telephone survey of 600 people and detailed information about the proposal on council's website and in libraries and at the Maruya customer service centre.

In early December, council will consider the community's feedback and decide whether it will notify the NSW Government of its intention to apply for a rate variation.

If it does, the community would have another opportunity to have their say when an amended delivery program and detailed financial information would go on public exhibition for 28 days between December and January. The dates for this consultation phase are set by the NSW Government's Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal.

Guess who?



R&H Narooma
44762169

Raine & Horne

rh.com.au

From the Editor's desk

THE historic ride to Bendethera at the weekend marked more than just a beautiful moment.

The process of reopening the bridle track brought many people from different walks of life together.

For instance, a scientist was joined by a former butcher, race horse trainer and breeder on the project.

They were brought together by a shared love of horses and a shared love of the natural wonder of the area we live in.

It marked a careful alliance between the Access for All group and the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Rather than being sworn enemies, the groups have worked closely together to ensure the track could be reopened with minimum disturbance to the natural environment.

The weekend ride is testament to that cooperation.

The two-year trial be monitored but goodwill shown throughout this whole project is an extremely good omen.

No-one who experiences its dramatic beauty could be unmoved, even without a family attachment to the Moruya hinterland.

That bodes well for its care into the future.

Catherine Lawler had a very emotional reason for supporting the ride, even if she could not be there.

It was a track her family had travelled for generations and her attachment to it was clear in her voice when she spoke last week to the Bay Post/Moruya Examiner.

For Mrs Lawler, the track truly does carry the sound of history's hoofbeats.

An older attachment of Indigenous people to this area, should also not be underestimated.

It would be great to see groups of young indigenous people riding, or walking, with knowledgeable elders - of any cultural group - on and through this beautiful piece of country.

> VOX POP: Do you feel you are taking your life into your own hands on our roads?



Karen Wilson
CANBERRA
"No, I feel no safer than anywhere else. I think when I'm travelling down here I tend to pay more attention to what's going on because I'm not familiar with the roads."



Ken Cowden
RUNNYFORD
"Yes, you do. You need to be very careful. You never know when something is going to happen. I was 30 seconds behind that accident on the Princes Highway the other day; it can happen at any time."



Jean Beeby
SUNSHINE BAY
"My personal feeling is that there is nothing wrong with our roads but it's the drivers on the roads."



Jan Torica
LILLI PILLI
"I'm very aware of the oncoming traffic even when I'm heading down Beach Road. You need to be careful of other drivers."



Justin O'Neill
DENHAM'S BEACH
"It depends on the road and what time of year. On a long weekend in Batemans Bay, yes it's just the number of people that are on the roads."

Millions for council

AN announcement was made recently by the NSW Treasurer, Andrew Constance, that a grant of \$10 million would be made available to Eurobodalla Shire Council to complete the spine road from Glenella Road to the Princes Highway. Since then other grant funding for the benefit of the community in the Eurobodalla Shire has been announced by the federal member for Eden-Monaro, Peter Hensy.

These latter grants also ran in the millions of dollars - \$4.5 million in one announcement, and double that in the following year to \$9 million, a total of \$13.5 million.

Those announcements of promised funding for the benefit of the Eurobodalla Shire's residents and ratepayers totals \$23.5 million or thereabouts over the present and coming council budget

periods, equalling about 20 per cent of the annual council budget.

Will those announcements have an impact on council's proposal to apply to the IPART for a significant rate rise over the next three years?

It will be of real interest to hear what the mayor has to say about all that new promised taxpayer cash and how it'll be used, won't it?

Alan Brown
Batemans Bay

People power can work

I AM writing in support of Brad Rossiter's letter to the editor regarding the Batemans Bay Bowling Club site.

Why hasn't the Catalina Club board of management done something to stop the rot that can be seen to be happening at the site?

I remember when working

bees were held there in the 1960s every weekend.

People gave their time gladly and in large numbers, to help get the club started.

I cry when I drive by the site now, knowing how much work was involved getting the club up to the standard of one of the top clubs in NSW in the 1970s.

Bad management and the greed of a few undid a wonderful community asset.

The only way I can see to get something happening again is if everyone who is a member of the Catalina Club attends the club's annual general meeting on October 27 at 7pm and votes in a new board of directors.

I believe people power can achieve wonderful things if people work together for the greater good of the community.

With the goodwill of the Eurobodalla Shire Council general manager, the mayor and the councillors, I'm sure the car park ownership could

be resolved.

What a wonderful place for a performing arts centre or swimming pool the site would make.

Margaret Kloss, JP
Batemans Bay

Stop the library rot

THE Minister for the Arts has written to many newspapers in NSW in recent days about the library funding campaign being co-ordinated by the NSW Public Libraries Association.

The association acknowledges the additional capital funding provided by the NSW Government in the 2014-15 Budget, and for coming years.

What needs to be made clear is that the funding under this increase is available by application to the grant program, and is not universally spread across the state.

While this funding will provide enhanced facilities for

those councils which are successful, other issues remain.

The Minister fails to acknowledge that state government recurrent funding to support the public library network is the lowest percentage of the total budget of any state, and about half of that provided in Victoria and Queensland, the two most comparable networks.

This is the important point, not quibbling about dollar figures, and average subsidies.

As the association said to the Minister just a few weeks ago, it's fine to build great infrastructure, but if you don't have the resources or the staff to make it work, then it is a pointless exercise.

The Library Act, enacted nearly 75 years ago, always presumed a partnership between local government and the state of NSW in the provision of public library services.

Local government has done the heavy lifting for the past decade and more, and now has to make hard decisions about the level of service which can be provided.

If opening hours are reduced, branches closed, or mobile library stops removed, it will be because funding pressures on councils have become too great.

For a modest increase in recurrent funding, the Minister can prevent this.

More than 60,000 NSW residents have signed a petition in support of this proposition.

Minister Grant must listen to the community - library lovers vote too.

Councillors Graham Smith and Veronique Marchandais
Joint presidents
NSW Public Libraries Association

Huge rate rise coming your way

BEING "transparent" and "accountable" should mean not trying to deceive ratepayers.

But isn't council's word play designed to do exactly that?

The extra 5 per cent is actually per year, for three years, on top of 2.3 per cent allowed (not compulsory).

So what management is actually talking about here is approximately 7.3 per cent a year, compounding over three years, which calculates to a proposed rise in rates of approximately 23.53 per cent.

The other misleading

assertion made by council is that Eurobodalla Shire's rates are lower than average.

What council is not telling ratepayers is that it has been hiking up unregulated fees and charges within rates for a very long time, to the point this has now become an embarrassment.

For example, in Sydney the cost of water is \$2.232 per kilolitre.

In the Eurobodalla it's \$3.40 per kilolitre.

Last year the residential availability charge was \$228, this year it's \$282, an annual increase of 23.68 per cent.

In Sydney this charge is about \$114 a year.

By adding new charges for the same services, and hiking them up quietly over many years, we are now being extremely over-charged by council.

Council apparently spends about 70 per cent of its rates and charges income on wages.

So in business terms it has been bankrupt for a very long time, by mismanagement.

The problem with all councils is that they were taken over by the state many years ago, and

became unaccountable and out of control.

The solution is the same as the state has been doing (very successfully) with hospitals and schools, by merely returning real control to communities, and restoring a system that used to work well, before this takeover (certainly not amalgamation).

I commend Councillor Leighton for being the only councillor to vote against this proposal.

Damian Rogers
Moruya

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Letters 300 words maximum. Please include your name, suburb and daytime telephone number for purposes of correspondence.

Our say ...

WELL, here we go for another Narooma Blues Festival! It's a bit of shock to hear Neil Murrin say that numbers could be down this year because of factors well and truly out of his and our hands - terrorism and Federal Government cuts.

This does not bode well for future holidays coming up, although it would seem that if anywhere in the world is safe from terrorism, home-grown or otherwise, it would be Narooma.

Narooma is a friendly place where we welcome visitors, so have a great weekend and enjoy the blues.

Thanks to everyone who sent in photos for the Blues Mojo blues pass giveaways, today is your last chance to post one on Facebook.

Just a footnote - making a few last minute calls to the visitor centre this afternoon to find out what bookings had been, I found I could not get in.

I must have been busy on the phone for some time - so perhaps all is not lost and I will be there.

I hope all come and enjoy!

Have a great long weekend and remember to turn your clocks forward on Saturday night as the most excellent day of saving is about to begin and also remember to be safe on the roads and do the right thing as it is double demerit points.

Mayor's say ...

Mayor's say... One of the newer Council programs I've been pleased to see underway and to be part of is the monthly markets stall.

This started earlier this year and once a month, council's senior managers set up a stall at markets in Batemans Bay, Narooma, Moruya and Narooma.

The day was also a good opportunity to chat with people about the current proposal which is about if council should plan to fund a package of community and transport infrastructure projects through a special rate variation.

Council endorsed the proposed projects last week and it will be important for all councillors to be out and about over the next few months talking to the people we represent to find out if our community understands the issues and if, and I repeat, we should go ahead with it next year.

An information brochure with details of the proposal and projects will be posted out to all ratepayers in a few weeks and you can see it online on Council's website.

The proposal of projects includes upgrades to sporting facilities, parks, roads, bridges, pathways, community halls and playgrounds and improvements to the accessibility of our playgrounds, viewing platforms and toilets.

The projects have already been identified as priorities and asked for by our community during previous consultation and are those that cannot be funded with our current income.

You can read more about the how and why of this proposal in the brochure and website and I welcome any questions you have once you have read about the proposal in detail.

On average Eurobodalla rates are 20 per cent lower than similar sized councils across NSW and this presents challenges for how Council plans to fund the maintenance and renewal of infrastructure.

Based on the average residential rate, the current proposal could see a rate increase of up to 8 per cent for three years.

This would be made up of a 5 per cent increase plus the annual rate peg amount projected at 3 per cent.

Eurobodalla rate payers have not seen a rate rise other than the annual IPART ratepeg that has been less than CPI since 2006.

Last year the ratepeg was 2.3 per cent.

Under this proposal, residential rates would rise by an estimated extra \$1.25 per week in the first year, \$1.36 in year two, and \$1.47 a week in year three.

I stress that it is only a proposal at this stage and we are genuinely seeking community feedback before we make any further decision to apply for a rate next year.

In December we have to decide whether to notify the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal if we intend to apply next year.

If we do this, there will be another round of community engagement through December and January before making a final application in February.

Please let me know if there is any issue you feel Eurobodalla Shire Council may be able to help you with.

You can email me at mayor@eurobodalla.nsw.gov.au or phone me on 0418 279 215.

Clr Lindsay Brown
Mayor of Eurobodalla Shire

Meet us at the markets and your rates

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thank you Narooma

During September, I travelled to France to compete in the International Lifesaving World Titles.

It was such a privilege to attend this competition and would not have been possible without the support of Narooma Surf Lifesaving Club and our local community.

I would particularly like to thank Cameron Rowley and Fleur Constable for initiating the fundraising, which paid for my airfares and accommodation. Many thanks also to everyone who purchased tickets.

I am very grateful to my family, friends and the local community for supporting me in this pursuit.

I am very proud of my achievements and this experience has only driven me to work harder in preparation for the next world titles in Amsterdam in two year's time.

Hopefully I can go one better and bring home gold for Narooma.

Once again, thank you
Justin Beninett
Narooma

A seawall across Wagonga Inlet

I am a land owner in Narooma and have restricted my attention to that area in respect of the current exhibition regarding sea rise and management in the Eurobodalla Shire.

I have waded through the 131-page jargonistic, legalistic, back covering and devoid of vision expert report on exhibition.

It's form and language makes it alien for the vast majority of citizens.

So I have reduced its impact on Wagonga inlet to a single sentence.

Wagonga Inlet is a special case regarding inundation.

It is an inlet not a river estuary, bay or sea front. As such it can be blocked and/or filled to overcome this problem, if there is one, and relatively cheaply.

Less economic loss would flow from my proposed blocking of the inlet versus restrictions on the many land holding otherwise affected on the level area surrounding the inlet, particularly on "The Flat" in Narooma.

I propose that should reality reflect the science accepted in the exhibited report then the simplest and most easily achieved and economically viable solution would be to block the inlet to an appropriate level with appropriate major pump out over the sea wall as required, and acceptance of the inlet as it now stands as a lagoon or lake.

However if a more expansive plan was adopted to embrace this opportunity of the need to react to sea level rise a major positive result could occur for Narooma.

Narooma is adversely affected by a lack of level land for major sporting, carnival, recreational, residential and commercial activities.

The best such development along the South Coast could result from this program.

The wall could be accompanied by reducing the inlet to a rivulet of significant beauty and design and be accompanied by

filling Wagonga Inlet.

The fishing industry has already been decimated by other initiatives and the remaining recreational and commercial use of the inlet is minimal.

The resulting thousands of hectares of level land could house major sporting and recreational facilities, beautiful new housing estates, a major shopping centre with appropriately large level parking, common areas and parks around the rivulet, and a major marina for leisure and commercial use at the mouth of the inlet.

Narooma could be made the centre of how to handle sea rise and if the plan was embraced now, before the calamity occurred would provide a major residential, commercial and tourist area in Australia with the creation of thousands of jobs and the economic multiplier major good effect on our community.

Economically, the sale of resulting land and marina would entirely offset the cost of this program.

It would be cost neutral to ratepayers and Council and amenity and economically majority beneficial to Narooma and its residents.

If my proposal was adopted Narooma could be given a fresh lease on life.

I propose that we don't wait for a calamity, we forget about building Noah's Ark or restricting landowners without vision and that we embrace this opportunity right now and create a re-born magnificent Narooma.

A trip to Holland would be useful for sceptics to see how sea level rise and inundation has been handled there for centuries.

I for one would happily join a consortium of local and regional business partners to construct this staged concept into reality.

Harvey Ball
Narooma

Total firearm ban

If you haven't yet read Supreme Court Justice Michael David's opinion in the Adelaide Advertiser (26 Sept 14), he is seeking a total firearm ban and believes that removing guns from the community would prevent a significant number of domestic shootings.

Even with this educated and experienced judge's opinion I feel as though the peace loving community of Narooma are a small David up against a giant political Goliath with vested interests far wider than our Shire.

I ask you, what do gun sellers in Narooma really want? Yes, Australia enjoys some of the toughest gun laws in the world.

Australia's strict gun laws and the gun buyback in the wake of the 1996 Port Arthur massacres prevented further mass shootings.

But as hunting enthusiasts converge on the Narooma HuntFest and exhibition of guns, archery and animal butchering held in the New South Wales town of Narooma every June, many Australians are concerned.

School teachers, aware of recent gun violence in US schools, oppose the HuntFest on the grounds that it sends the wrong message about guns to young people.

Many Narooma residents, afraid HuntFest is giving the town a bad reputation, protest that this festival started out as a photography exhibition until organisers sought, and won, council approval to expand the event into a gun exhibition and now wish the licence to include sale of guns and a 10m Portable Air Rifle Range.

Statistically, there have been more than 9,000 firearms stolen between 2004 and 2012, most from homes, and there are an estimated 10,000 guns on the black market in Australia.

US President Obama revealed the biggest frustration of his presidency was that Washington had not taken steps to keep guns out of the hands of people that can do "unbelievable damage".

Don't let Australia go the same way. Please let council know that we don't agree with this amendment by writing to the General Manager quoting Reference number E12.6277 and lodge your objection before October 8. Thank you as a concerned peace-loving resident of this beautiful shire.

Mendy Wheatley
Narooma

Front page disturbing

I was disturbed by your front page last week totally dedicated to the decimation of parts of Bodalla State Forest's Murrumbidgee Lake catchment, mostly by the photo of jubilant Forestry Corporation staff seemingly celebrating this event.

In my 25 years of campaigning against destruction of our native forests, the catch cry has been for local jobs.

So why is this operation being undertaken by a company that was paid hundreds of thousands of our taxpayer dollars in compensation for exiting the industry in Tasmania?

Sean Burke
Alotite

Thanks to ice bucketers

I would like to acknowledge the heartfelt and enthusiastic participation of the Year 12 students at Narooma High, Principal Tony Fahey and all of the school community for supporting Motor Neurone Disease research last month.

The great shots in last week's paper captured the moment and reflected the mood of the day!

Rotary also generously donated \$500 to MND Research and took up the ice bucket challenge at the Rotary Markets on Sunday!

Matt's Pink Floyd gig tipped in \$360 and the AFL helped on the social front by organising great tickets at the Sydney Preliminary Final for Matt, James and myself.

Thank you everyone for a very positive week. MND is not a pleasant thing to contemplate but the sooner the light can shine on it, the better.

Kathryn Ratcliffe
MND Ambassador, MND NSW

Response to protestors

If those people who own firearms had as much disregard for the freedom of choice of others and displayed as radical an attitude as the anti-HuntFest anti-gun people, the general public would really have something to worry about.

K. Dawson
Dalmeny

Climate action draws a crowd

Last Sunday Ban Ki-moon, the Secretary General of the UN, marched with 300,000 people through the streets of New York in the greatest ever mobilisation of ordinary people to call for action on climate change. In Moruya we had 120 people marching and ringing the church bell.

For those people who remain either sceptical or somewhat disinterested in the reality of climate change and its impacts a few points may be of interest. The fact is that whilst we enjoy a wonderful life here on the south coast major global corporations and organisations are planning for the reality of climate change.

Conservative organisations such as the IMF have expressed grave concerns about where we are heading for 4 or even 6 degrees of warming.

These are just some examples of how the rest of the world is recognising

the crisis on our doorstep. Our political leaders however appear to be failing us and future generations of life.

The impetus for action needed must clearly come from ordinary people. What can we do? In the first instance we must make our concerns known to those in positions of influence; keep the march towards reducing our carbon emissions going in whatever way we can.

We will all have to change whether by choice or through necessity. Let's not fear that change but have the courage to embrace it.

Linda Chapman
Mossy Point

Koala claims doubtful

The application for the six-year, \$4 million Corridors and Core Habitats for Koalas project (Narooma News, 17 September), was submitted to the federal government's Biofund on 31 Jan 2012.

Since that time, no information has been made available on the outcomes of koala surveys. What can be said is that the 2007-09 survey was plagued with problems, stemming largely from management decisions to change and mix survey methods.

Consequently, a CSIRO analysis of the data from the 2007-09 surveys found 'some weak evidence of relationships between the probability of occupancy and several habitat variables. However the strength of relationship is such that they are not that useful for prediction.'

Based on information available from the NSW Wildlife Atlas, the outcome of surveys up till the end of 2012 indicate the mixing of survey methods continued until that time. Hence claims of a significant increase in koala numbers based on these

data are likely to be biased, and speculative.

NSW Office of Environment and Heritage threatened species officer Chris Allen refers to several koala populations, and an 'endangered population, we could still easily lose', that has 'adapted to this habitat'.

You can't have both, and the fact is the partners in the project, the OE&H, Forestry, and the EPA, have ignored the threat posed by die-back. Koalas cannot adapt to unsuitable foliage or dead trees.

The major aspects of the project are ensuring unsustainable timber supplies, and translocating koalas from south Gippsland to a very uncertain future in forests around Tantawangalo, where the endemic koalas have died. These proposals also rely on ignoring die-back, and until the project proponents change their collective attitude, the proposal to 'put down the foundations for a management program' may keep some in a job, but it won't help koalas.

Robert Bertram
Bermagui

SEPTEMBER 2014

Date	Publication	Article Title
26 September 2014	Bay Post/Moruya Examiner	Letters to the editor
26 September 2014	Bay Post/Moruya Examiner	Special rate variation proposed: Eurobodalla Shire Council
26 September 2014	Bay Post/Moruya Examiner	Rates hike for Eurobodalla considered
19 September 2014	Narooma News	Eurobodalla Council rates increase

From the Editor's desk

IN New York City right now, 140 heads of state are attending the 69th annual United Nations general assembly.

This year's agenda is crowded with talks and speeches on new crises such as Islamic State extremists, civil unrest in the Ukraine, the ebola outbreak and the big one - climate change.

Climate change in the Bay Post/Moruya Examiner is a hot topic.

One only needs to mention it and our contributors feverishly put pen to paper for the letters page and online readers start typing madly in the comments space.

The interesting question is should we be so reliant on fossil fuels.

While polling on the streets of Batemans Bay this week, people were quick to say that we need to use renewable energy.

"Let's just change," one woman said.

Many people felt a little disconnected; that the choice of fossil fuel does not affect anyone on the South Coast directly.

However, not far from the Eurobodalla this conversation is happening.

I was born in a coal-mining town, Helensburgh, and my uncle, grandfather and great-grandfather were all coal miners.

I recall a march there in 2000 that promoted the use of renewable energy in the town.

The marchers were not treated kindly by members of the community - let's just say the local supermarket ran out of eggs that day.

The coal mine employs more than 150 people and so it is close to everyone's hearts.

And if you mention getting rid of fossil fuels in "the burgh" I dare say you would be slapped.

Times are changing. Unlike 20 years ago we now have several choices of energy, and Australia does seem to be only just waking up to them.

To the south and west of the Eurobodalla, in Nimmitabel and around Bungendore, there are wind farms, some established and others in the early stages of construction.

In Nimmitabel, at first there was controversy over the project, but for the most part the community seems to have accepted that the giant turbines will generate more than 113 megawatts of electricity.

That is enough to supply at least 40,000 homes.

I wonder if Batemans Bay or Moruya will embrace a wind farm one day?

- Kate Ryan

VOX POP: Should nations be reducing their reliance on fossil fuels?



Amy Root
MORUYA
"Yes. It's not good for our planet."



Deb Gordon
WAMBOIN
"Yes. I believe we should be trying to use more efficient ones that are renewable."



Karen Van Der Stoep
SURF BEACH
"Yes, we should. We should be concerned about the environment, but there's not a lot we can do as individuals. Governments need to look at the resources we use."



Jamie Brown
MALUA BAY
"Yes. It's better for the ozone layer."



Kristie Horwood
BATEMANS BAY
"Yes. A change is always better."

Bay Bowlo forgotten

IT'S great to see the Malua Bay Bowling Club moving forward with the installation of floodlights for night bowls, a positive move for community inclusion.

But, Batemans Bay Bowling Club remains derelict, unused, and closed to our community and visitors.

The Batemans Bay Bowling Club is located on prime Princes Highway frontage, and continues to be left behind, forgotten, closed, unused.

How much longer will our community, and visitors, have to wait until this facility is reopened for community use?

Brad Rossiter
Batemans Bay

Double dipping?

ITEM GMRI4/025, which appeared on the agenda at the Eurobodalla Shire Council meeting on September 23, is about a general rate increase, on top of what is normally allowed with CPI increases, of per-

haps 5.5 percent and should be considered very carefully by the shire's ratepayers and residents.

Some of the matters identified in the agenda, to be included in a submission to the IPART for its consideration and support, would normally have been funded by state and federal government grants.

If the IPART were to approve an increase in general rates, it would, you could say, be akin to double taxing.

Alan Brown
Batemans Bay

Nature's input ignored

PETER Middleton asks (Bay Post, August 31), "does global warming actually exist?" and "... is human influence a contributing factor?"

The question should be whether human-related carbon dioxide emissions are causing dangerous anthropogenic global warming?

Dangerous anthropogenic global warming is the intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's political orthodoxy - that future life

on Earth is threatened from a rise in Earth's surface temperature of 1.5 degrees to 4.5 degrees - and a sea-level rise of 20cm to 140cm - for an anticipated doubling of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

In 1988 the UN created the IPCC as the authority for advising governments.

Its charter's starting assumption: that human-caused dangerous global warming exists and its cause is man-made carbon dioxide emissions.

Its solution was to decarbonise the planet, thus natural climate variability was outside the loop.

That assumption's challenge is how to determine the magnitude of warming caused by the small amount of industrial carbon dioxide that enters the atmosphere each year, compared with the huge natural flows from land and sea.

Despite decades of study by thousands of scientists costing \$100 billion and more, the answer is still unknown.

The IPCC's climate models make projections 100 years ahead but fail to anticipate the current global surface

temperature stasis, which began 18 years ago. One doesn't need to be a scientist to reach these conclusions.

An inquiring mind and extensive balanced research guided by commonsense is sufficient.

Neville Hughes
Surf Beach

Active in a global first

ON September 21 I was part of an alive, aware, vibrant group of people in our shire.

We gathered in Moruya to unite with thousands of others throughout the world in a global day of action.

We united to voice our concern and urge world leaders to truly act for the planet when they met in New York this week and to address the critical situation we're all facing.

Surely such an historic event warranted wonderful coverage!

Good coverage of this critical global event as well as of our own nation's involvement would have lifted people's spirits, spread hope and

reminded us of the importance of our power as the people of this great land.

But the emphasis is on fear and the evil some are resorting to, rather than the good and remarkable things people are doing.

Pat de Laney
Narrawa

Dementia-friendly nation

DURING Dementia Awareness Month in September, Alzheimer's Australia, with support of the Centre for Healthy Brain Ageing, called on the community to join them in creating a dementia-friendly nation - that is, creating communities where people living with dementia are respected, valued and supported to maintain a good quality of life.

In the electorate of Bega there are about 1560 people with dementia.

That figure is projected to increase to about 3540 by 2050.

These numbers show how essential it is that we pave the way for future generations to live in dementia-friendly communities.

Greater awareness and understanding of dementia in the community is essential to prevent the social isolation suffered by so many people following a diagnosis of dementia.

I encourage your readers to find out more at www.dementiafriendly.org.au.

Small actions do count and can make a significant difference to the lives of people with dementia.

John Watkins
CEO, Alzheimer's Australia NSW

HuntFest promotes safety and education

TWO thousand three hundred adults attended HuntFest in June.

Net result: no gun crime; no anti-social behaviour; no protestors; money spent in cafes, motels, restaurants, souvenir shops, fishing outlets, etc, but local papers last week contained three uninformed, vitriolic outbursts against HuntFest and its organisers, with no letters

to present the truth.

So, in fairness, I am compelled to write, even though I would prefer to maintain a dignified silence.

HuntFest, and the South Coast Hunters Club, have no connection to the NRA, the United States itself, or any so-called US gun culture.

HuntFest is not designed to change Australian cul-

ture, encourage shooting of native animals, or promote the gunning down of innocent bushwalkers in state forests or national parks.

HuntFest is, however, designed to promote education among shooters, to teach them more about firearms safety, responsible use of public areas, control of feral pests, and safe, humane and responsible

harvesting of game.

If you don't like hunting, don't participate in it, don't attend HuntFest and don't eat venison.

There are much more important things to worry about than the legitimate hobbies and celebrations of those with views other than yours.

S Kennedy
Coramba

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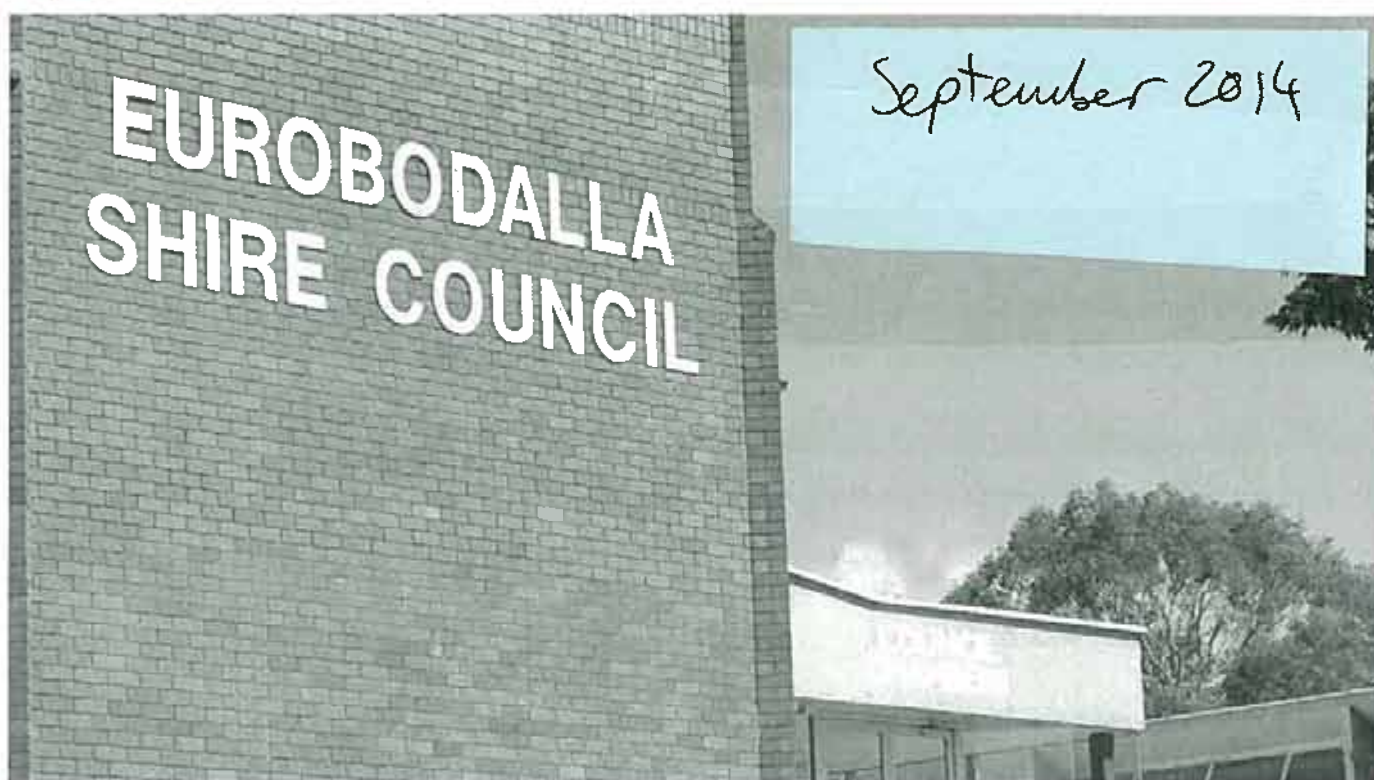
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Bay Post MORUYA (1)

Special rates variation proposed : Eurobodalla Shire Council

Sept. 26, 2014, 8:53 a.m.



A SPECIAL rates variation will be considered after a motion was passed by Eurobodalla Shire Council on Tuesday.

The special rates variation (SRV), if approved, will go towards a list of community infrastructures projects.

Priority infrastructure was defined as, but was not limited to upgrading Moruya airport, transport projects, stage two of the Dr Mackay centre upgrade, new pathways funding and sports grounds projects.

The proposal is for a consecutive annual percentage increase of five per cent above the rate pegging over the next three years only.

Council officers said an SRV would address a shortfall in funds and future budgets, cover high-priority infrastructure needs and depreciation.

When surveyed about a possible SRV in 2012-13, 62 per cent of residents and 68 per cent of non-residents stated they would support an increase of 5.5 per cent to improve local infrastructure and services.

During debate on the motion on Tuesday night, Councilor Peter Schwarz supported infrastructure upgrades in the Eurobodalla, but said the community was skeptical about a rates rise.

"It seems to me that some out there in the community are skeptical about the SRV, especially because they are concerned it is going to have increased staffing implications," he said.

General manager Catherine Dale assured councillors that was not the case and whatever was collected would go into infrastructure.

"Whatever we collect in terms of any potential SRV goes directly into projects so it doesn't go into current staffing or anything along those lines," she said.

Cr Milton Leslight said he was opposed to the idea of an SRV and cautioned council in the way they moved forward.

"People that are coming to me have very grave concerns with where we are heading with this," he said.

"This proposal will be seen with a great deal of question and un-trust from experiences our community has experienced before.

"Most of the people in our area are retirees; there is significant unemployment, high levels of homeless people, too many shops vacant and people out there struggling to pay their power bills.

"I think our community will be very hostile if we don't do it right."

Cr Gabi Harding said although people were against the idea in the first instance, once she had a conversation with them about the benefits, they understood where council was heading.

"They actually understand what we are doing," she said.

"If they are going to get what they are told they are going to get for the money they have to pay, they don't have a problem."

Cr Fergus Thomson said if council did not generate income to maintain those assets, the Eurobodalla would look "like a fairly grotty place".

"We want somewhere that is attractive, where kids can grow up with access to sporting ovals and swimming pools, we want this place to look attractive when people arrive here for their holidays," he said.

"To do that, we have to constantly be out there making sure the facilities we have are maintained and will provide the things people come looking for.

"We have a responsibility to provide sufficient funds for this council to be able to provide those things ."

Cr Liz Innes said, she supported the idea of SRV and a community discussion.

"I do support this motion going forward at this stage," she said.

A report will be presented to council in December with recommendations for council to either apply for an SRV or to not.

Bay Post MORUYA (1)

Rates hike for Eurobodalla considered

Sept. 26, 2014, 6 a.m.



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"To do that, we have to constantly be out there making sure the facilities we have are maintained and will provide the things people come looking for.

"We have a responsibility to provide sufficient funds for this council to be able to provide those things that people enjoy."

Cr Liz Innes said she supported the idea of an SRV at this point, and a community discussion.

"I do support this motion going forward at this stage," she said.

A report will be presented to council in December with recommendations for council to either apply for an SRV or to not.

The report will include an updated delivery program 2013-2017 and long term financial plan.

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Narooma News (1)

Eurobodalla Council rates increase

Sept. 19, 2014, 2:46 p.m.



AT next Tuesday's meeting, Eurobodalla Shire councillors will be asked to consider a package of social infrastructure, community projects and loan funding opportunities that, if endorsed, could form the basis of a notice of intent to apply for special rate variation with the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal.

If Council endorses the package of projects, it will start another phase of community consultation designed to keep residents informed about the need, purpose and impact of a rate variation before Council makes a decision about whether or not to apply for one in December this year.

Council has been considering a rate variation since 2012 when extensive consultation with the community showed that residents highly valued the programs and infrastructure that Council provides. Residents also said that they wanted Council to be able to maintain its priority infrastructure into the future. At the time 62 per cent of residents and 68 per cent of non-residents stated that they would be supportive of a rate variation of 5.5 per cent to improve local infrastructure and services. However, the decision to apply for a variation was put on hold when the local government elections were held but the option of applying for a variation was retained for a later date during the life of Council's 2013-2017 Delivery Program 2013-2017.

The projects being considered by Council next week have already been identified as priorities by the community and are those that will deliver broad economic and social benefits.

In addition to being diligent about identifying savings and efficiencies, seeking grants and external funds, Council is still unable to meet the needs of the community in the years ahead with its current rates revenue. The proposal to apply for a special rate variation is one way that it can fund the increasing costs of maintaining, renewing and building its \$1.6 billion infrastructure. If Council endorses the projects, it will continue to talk to the community about how the proposed 5 per cent rate variation would impact them. Councillors will then make a final decision on whether to apply for the variation with the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal in December.

The proposed package includes upgrades to sporting facilities, community halls and road projects, the Batemans Bay CBD and Moruya's library and exhibition centre. It also includes a commitment to ensuring that everyone can enjoy an active and healthy life in Eurobodalla with improvements to the accessibility of playgrounds, viewing platforms at popular locations and toilet facilities.

As well as an extensive list of infrastructure projects, the package also includes a new loan funding strategy where increased revenue would be used to fund the renewal of short lived infrastructure in order to address Council's annual infrastructure funding gap. Using loan funding for long lived infrastructure and larger works can help Council spread its infrastructure costs over time and ensure that all maintenance, renewals and depreciation costs for new and upgraded assets are covered in Council's budget.

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BayPost MORUYA (/)

Rate-royal run around

Sept. 5, 2014, 2:30 a.m.

Local government mayors may think it is the role of their general managers to make rate increases look as painless as possible to property owners.

Our latest 2014/2015 Eurobodalla Shire Council rates notice and attached brochure quoted increases of 2.3 per cent, 2.5 per cent and zero per cent.

Not too bad, I thought; better than recent electricity hikes.

There was no mention, however, that our base water charge increased by more than 22 per cent.

To be fair, the brochure did state that this charge would rise to \$282.

The objective of information brochures should be to present economic reality, as truthfully as possible.

The latest document shows a clear lack of judgment.

At the council meeting of July 22, 2014, the general manager initiated and documented the special rate variation application process and timelines for 2015/2016.

An outcome of this documentation was that a special rate variation may be considered by council soon to fund a range of issues, including the "wants and needs" of local committees.

The council appears well qualified to present any future painful increases in a good light.

What sounds better to you: a rise of a mere 96 cents per day (a quarter of a cappuccino) or an increase of \$350 per year?

Owen Cartledge

Malua Bay



AUGUST 2014

Date	Publication	Article Title
8 August 2014	Bay Post/Moruya Examiner	Closer scrutiny needed

News Business

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BayPost MORUW

Closer scrutiny needed

Aug 8, 2014, 11 a.m.

AT the last meeting of the Eurobodalla Shire Council, a consensus was reached among the elected councillors to prepare a priority list of projects and other programs that could be funded if council gained the support of the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) and community for a Special Rate Variation.

General rate increases above the CPI need the support of the IPART.

Not all local areas of NSW apply for the IPART's support for rate increases because they are able to manage without the need for additional general rate income above the CPI.

Why is it necessary then, for the Eurobodalla Shire to continually say they need bigger or larger revenues, cash flows, to deliver what other local government areas in NSW deliver to their residents and ratepayers?

Why does the Eurobodalla council continually attempt to develop ideas to support increases in revenues? What's happened to funds collected in the past that should have been sufficient to fund maintenance and infrastructure programs and other capital works and forward estimate programs, that other local government areas of NSW are, without the need to increase general rate revenues?

In my opinion the Eurobodalla council over a long period of time has been too eager to take people on in the legal system and lose millions, in some instances. Public servant salaries have increased above the CPI, compounding at rates that eat revenues up at unsustainable levels.

Council income streams were once able to provide the shire's residents and ratepayers with a range of community assets and other benefits without inventing new levies and other fee and charges costs.

Many residents and ratepayers are getting to the point where they can no longer afford to live in the Eurobodalla Shire.

Councillors need to come to terms with the reality of how any increases they deliver to the shire residents and ratepayers will impact in a negative way on the shire economy generally and start thinking about efficiencies, not financial liabilities on the community.

Improve management practices, don't increase rates to solve the shire's economic and management problems.

Allan Brown

Batemans Bay



JULY 2014

Date	Publication	Article Title
30 July 2014	Bay Post/Moruya Examiner	From the editor's desk
30 July 2014	Narooma News	Council infrastructure priorities
29 July 2014	Bay Post/Moruya Examiner	Councillors voice opposition to special rate rise
25 July 2014	Bay Post/Moruya Examiner	Ball rolling on special rate rise
25 July 2014	Bay Post/Moruya Examiner	Letters to the editor
23 July 2014	Bay Post/Moruya Examiner	Council GM proposes special rate rise

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BayPost MORUYA (1)

From the editor's desk

July 2014

July 30, 2014, 6 a.m.

DEBATE has been hot on the Bay Post/Moruya Examiner website over the past week regarding Eurobodalla Shire Council's proposition to begin the process for a special rate variation (SRV).

Residents have largely criticised council's staffing numbers as "excessive", particularly in management, and argued the council should tighten its belt rather than asking residents to tighten theirs.

It is not the first time the council has talked of such an application, having previously failed in an attempt.

Council estimates there is a \$3 million shortfall in funding every year due to annual rate pegging by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART).

This is despite savings it has made in things like retiring underused picnic areas and toilets, increasing workforce capacity through technology, job redesign and training, streamlining organisational structure, and exploring opportunities to share resources with neighbouring councils.

It says that if things are left as they are, services and facilities will drop.

Assets, such as community halls, roads and public facilities will deteriorate.

The SRV, council says, is one option to address the shortfall. The other options, according to council's general manager, are to reduce services or service levels, or allow infrastructure to continue to deteriorate. No other options were provided.

Council says if it is to apply for an SRV, it will be required to argue need, as well as provide evidence of productivity improvements and cost containment strategies realised in past years.

It will need to prioritise works, re-do its long term financial plans to show SRV and business as usual scenarios and undertake extensive community consultation which demonstrates that residents are aware of the proposal.

All this in just over four months.

One can only hope that council demonstrates well its needs to residents, to help them understand why it wants to charge them more.

And if the community disagrees, it needs to be listened to.

Because any increased costs to ratepayers, particularly pensioners who are already struggling to keep their heads above water, will impact hard.

clarke law



CHALLENGING A WILL

By John Clarke

There is specific legislation in NSW outlining the basis on which a person may challenge a Will.

If a person feels that they have been inadequately provided for under a Will, a challenge may be possible in certain circumstances.

Broadly, claimants would have to demonstrate that they are an "eligible person" under the legislation and that the Court should make an order for better or further provision out of the deceased estate.

A person may be eligible to claim for provision if they are the spouse of the deceased; they are a child, grandchild or stepchild of the deceased; they lived in a domestic relationship with the deceased; or if they were at any time wholly or partly dependent on the deceased or at any time a member of the household in which the deceased person was a member.

In determining whether to make an order for family provision the Court will look at whether adequate provision has been made for the proper maintenance, education or advancement in life of the family member or other applicant.

There is a broad range of factors which the Court will take into account, including the nature and duration of the relationship between the applicant and the deceased; the character and conduct of the applicant; the financial situation of the applicant; and, in particular, any financial or non-financial contributions that the applicant made to the deceased during their lifetime.

Importantly, an application for provision out of an estate must be made within 12 months of the death of the deceased person.

John Clarke is Solicitor Director of Clarke Law, with a local network of offices at Narooma, Bermagui and Bega.

clarke law

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BARRY LAMB: Barry the five-day-old dorper lamb and vet nurse Sheree Everson at the Narooma Veterinary Hospital will be okay on Thursday a power outage as a generator has been hired.

Power outage to impact on business

FIVE businesses and 40 houses in the Narooma Midtown area will be without power tomorrow between 9am and 3pm.

This includes the *Narooma News* that will be closed, but Narooma Veterinary Hospital will remain open and has hired a generator to ensure its animal residents are okay.

Owner Chris Spurgeon noted that last time works were undertaken in the area, the power company then provided a generator.

Essential Energy says it will carry out vital maintenance on the electricity distribution network on Thursday, July 31.

Regional manager Philip Green said Essential Energy undertook regular inspections of electricity distribution network assets followed by planned maintenance works, and the work being undertaken in Narooma on Thursday fell into that category.

"Our asset inspections and planned works are necessary to maintain power

supply reliability for customers and reduce the likelihood of unplanned supply interruptions," he said.

Nearly 40 residential customers and five businesses in the vicinity of Candy and Garvan Streets and Barker Parade will be impacted.

"We need to interrupt supply on a planned basis, from time to time, for maintenance or upgrade work to ensure the safety and reliability of the network and provide a safe working environment for our employees," he said.

"Essential Energy schedules planned supply interruptions to ensure the least possible inconvenience for the greatest number of customers.

"On this occasion, local crews plan to temporarily reconfigure the electricity network to reduce the number of customers affected, and with the express purpose of maintaining supply to most businesses in the main street of Narooma."

Council infrastructure priorities

EUROBODALLA councillors have agreed to develop a prioritised list of community infrastructure projects that may be suitable for funding under a special rate variation (SRV).

Approval was also given at last week's council meeting for the preparation of a detailed community engagement plan that would ensure residents are well informed and can have their say about the need for an SRV in Eurobodalla if council decides to apply for one.

Mayor Lindsay Brown said the list will be put together from projects in Council's strategic and asset plans that have already been developed in consultation with the community.

Eurobodalla has a shortage of funds to provide and maintain its existing services and assets and a SRV is a way of raising additional funds for the infrastructure the community wants.

"The cost of local government services has risen faster than inflation and Council's income is limited by the NSW Government rate pegging that has been at least 0.5 per cent below inflation for the past 10 years," Cllr Brown said.

"Although Eurobodalla Shire Council provides much the same services as other similar sized councils, our rates income is 15 per cent less than the average."

Read more about councillors reaction to a potential special rate variation on Page 5 of today's *Narooma News*...

TV retune

ALL free-to-air television channels changed frequencies in the Batemans Bay, Moruya, Narooma and Delmeny areas yesterday, July 30.

After channels have changed, viewers will need to retune their digital TV, set-top box or digital TV recorder to find the channels that have moved.

These moves will free up broadcasting spectrum so it can be used for new services such as mobile broadband.

For more information about the retune, scheduled outages, or to sign up for an SMS or email reminder, visit the retune website, or call the Digital Ready Information Line on 1800 20 10 13, 8am to 10pm (AEST), 7 days.

POLICE REPORT

Stolen cards

A CAR stopped on the Princes Highway, Narooma at 3pm on Tuesday was searched and a 51-year-old Merrylands, Sydney man was found to be in possession of a number of cards including Medicare cards in different names.

He was arrested and charged with being in possession of goods stolen or otherwise illegally obtained.

Test refused

POLICE were called to Wallaga Lake at 1am Saturday after a local man in his 30s attempting to clutch start his car rolled into a car parked ahead on the road.

The man refused a breath test at the scene and back at the Narooma police station resulting in charges of refusing an alcohol test as well as driving disqualified and driving an unregistered vehicle.

Gas stolen

TWO 8.5kg gas bottles attached to a caravan parked at Dalmeny residence were stolen between 10pm last Tuesday and 7am Wednesday.

Trees sawed

A PROPERTY owner on Nutley's Creek Road Bermagui reported that someone trespassed between July 7 and 23 and cut down a couple of wattle trees with a chain saw.

Body tickets

POLICE issued traffic fines to an 18-year-old man Tilba after he was stopped for extending his arm or other parts of his body outside the car while driving.

Motorcycle accident

A MOTORBIKE rider from Trout Head was involved in a collision with a utility near Coils Lake around 3p Friday and was transported to Canberra Hospital by a Snowy Hydro Southcare rescue helicopter.

Scouts districts merge

SOUTH Coast and Tablelands Regional Scouts commissioner Phil Crutchley has recently announced the formation of the Southern Coast District with the merging Eurobodalla and Far South Districts.

This will encompass Scouting from Batemans Bay Eden.

Whereas Narooma was a part of Eurobodalla District and Cobargo, which covers Bermagui as well, was a part of the Far South District, now they both come under the one District of Southern Coast - this should assist us more support for the groups and encourage people to join either as youth members or become leaders or supporters of the groups.

The new district commissioner is Gary Pearce from Bega who can be contacted on 0407 286 731.

The inaugural district meeting was held in Bega in June. Scouting has places available for young people from 18 within the Eurobodalla and Bega Valley shires.

Leaders are welcome in all sections. Find out more about Scouting in your area please contact 4274 1099 details of your nearest group or alternatively visit Scouts NSW Website at www.nsw.scouts.com.au

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	THURSDAY 7 18 Sunny. Wind northerly 20 to 25 km/h tending northwesterly	
	FRIDAY 5 17 Partly cloudy. Light winds becoming northwesterly	

News Business

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BayPost MORUYA (/)

Councillors voice opposition to special rate rise

By EMILY BARTON

July 29, 2014, 4:40 p.m.

NOT all councillors were in favour of starting the process of applying for a special rate variation at council's meeting on Tuesday, July 22.

A report presented to the meeting by general manager Catherine Dale, on behalf of council, moved to get the ball rolling on an application to increase rates higher than the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

Council rate rises are annually set by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal, a system known as rate pegging, and are usually capped at CPI.

However last week general manager Catherine Dale sought approval from councillors to prioritise community infrastructure projects for consideration of a Special Rate Variation (SRV).

Councillor Milton Leslight voted against starting the process for a rates increase and said the community would not be supportive.

Cr Leslight said he believed the community would be "scathing of us in moving forward on this".

"The community are far from satisfied with how we spend their money," he said.

"There may be a better alternative that we can look at."

Cr Schwarz said at the meeting, he was a long way from supporting the idea of a special rates variation at this point in time but voted in favour of it anyway.

"Unless there is a list of infrastructure projects that are shovel ready, I will not support this," he said.

Cr Neil Burnside, who voted in favour of starting the process, said council needed to take "the community with us".

Cr Gabi Harding said she did not yet have a view, but voted in favour of starting the process.

"We owe it to the community to show them what the process would look like," she said.

"I support the motion."

Cr Danielle Brice said it was a big decision.

"Do we increase our rates or allow our infrastructure to continue to deteriorate," she asked.

"It's something we need to discuss with our community."

Cr Fergus Thompson supported council's intent to apply for a special rate variation and said doing that "doesn't lock us in to follow through".

"We need to start the process and look at the future and what will suffer," he said.

"We should be conscious of what people will be able to pay to live here."

Cr Liz Innes said it was a long process and starting the process did not mean the Eurobodalla was locked into a rate rise.

The recommendation was approved.

The council will develop a prioritised list of community infrastructure projects that may be suitable for funding under a special rate variation.

Approval was also given at the meeting to prepare a community engagement plan to ensure residents are well informed and can have their say about the need for a special rates rise in Eurobodalla, if council decides to apply for one.

News Business

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BayPost MORUYA (/)

Ball rolling on special rates rise

July 25, 2014, 11 a.m.

COUNCIL will develop a prioritised list of community infrastructure projects that may be suitable for funding under a special rate variation (SRV).

Mayor Lindsay Brown said the list would be put together from projects in council's strategic and asset plans that had already been developed in consultation with the community.

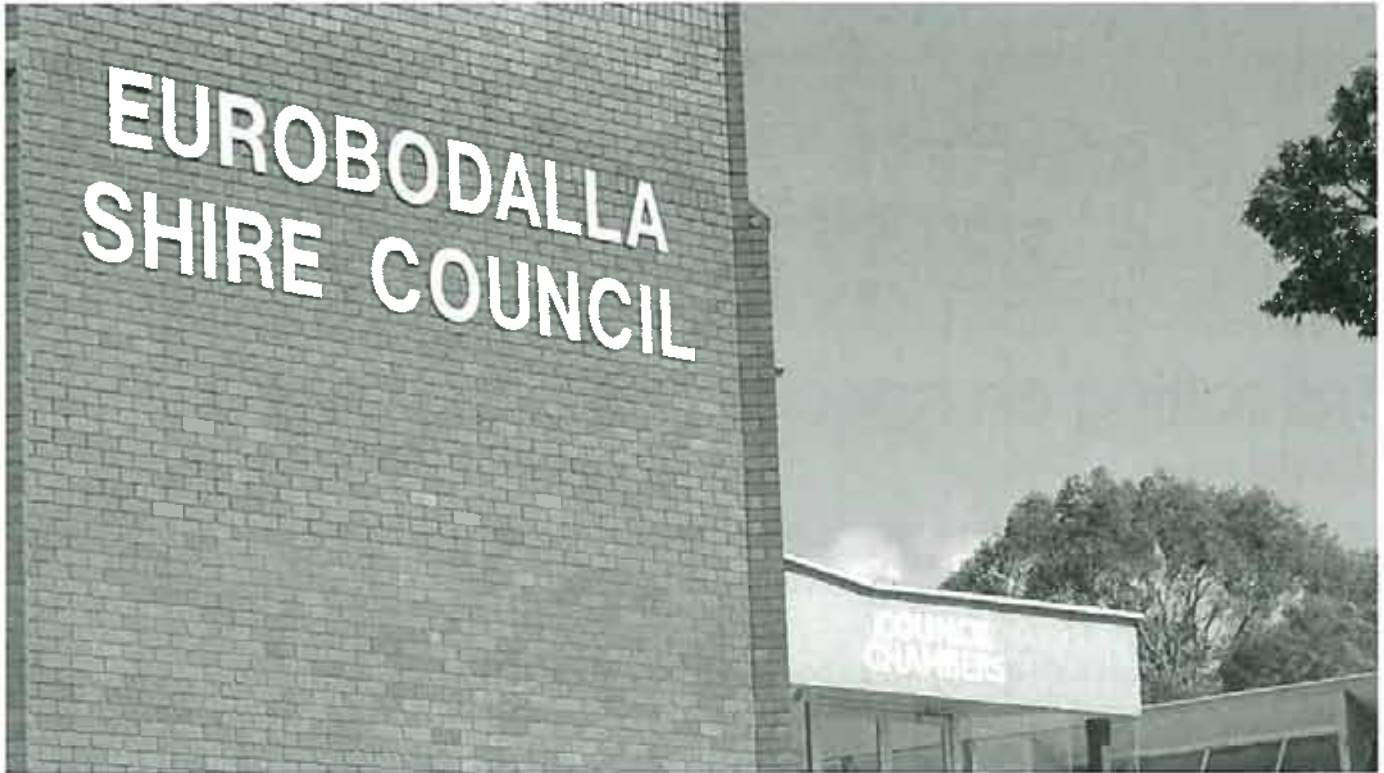
Approval was also given at this week's council meeting to prepare of a community engagement plan to ensure residents are well informed and can have their say about the need for a special rates rise in Eurobodalla, if council decides to apply for one.

He said the Eurobodalla had a shortage of funds to provide and maintain its existing services and assets and an SRV was a way of raising additional funds for the infrastructure the community wanted.

"The cost of local government services has risen faster than inflation and council's income is limited by the NSW Government rate pegging that has been at least 0.5 per cent below inflation for the past 10 years," Cr Brown said.

"Every year there's an increase in the backlog of work that we have to do to maintain the levels of service and standards our residents expect."

If council chooses to pursue an SRV for 2015-16 the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal would need to be notified by early December.



From the Editor's desk

AS consumers get wise to phone and computer scammers, the fraudsters get smarter.

It is easy to dismiss those caught in computer and phone scams as gullible, but scammers are using increasingly sophisticated methods.

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) warns some are using elaborate web and phone permits to appear like a government authority.

So called "reclaim" scams, where fraudsters say they represent a government department which owes you money, have so far this year milked a reported \$300,000 from unwary Australians.

If it did not work, they would not do it.

Tax time is a popular season for such scams.

Typically, the fraudsters convinced their victims to transfer an "administration fee" before their "reclaimed" money would be sent.

Malua Bay's Fran Trounson is to be commended for putting her name and face to the latest twist on this scam.

She wasn't caught, but freely admits it was a close thing and believes others will be.

The ACCC says scammers use headlines to their advantage.

To appear legitimate, they may claim your "case" is connected to a topical issue or government program.

Recent publicity of a class action where a bank was ordered to refund excess card charges may well have inspired the scam that nearly netted Mrs Trounson.

Consumers vaguely aware of a genuine case, but hazy on the details, may be susceptible to a call saying they have been overcharged.

The carbon tax was a popular one in recent years, and will no doubt again do the scam rounds, now that it has been abolished.

It does not take much creativity to write that script.

If a "government" official telephones you offering a carbon tax refund, enjoy the moment and treat it as so much hot air.

- KERRIE O'CONNOR

VOX POP: Would you be willing to pay higher rates for better facilities?



Greg Driscoll
SURF BEACH
"Yes. It would be better for the community."



Teresa McCabe
LONG BEACH
"Yes. I suppose every thing is going up these days, so higher rates are necessary."



Shirley-Anne Benson
BATEMANS BAY
"No. Rates are already high enough."



Joan McInnane
MELBOURNE
"No. We pay high rates anyway. I would like to see the money be allocated differently so more goes into facilities and less towards perks for councillors."



Gary White
BATEHAVEN
"No. Why should we pay higher rates when they're making enough already? It's unnecessary."

Time to act

NOW that the carbon tax is done and dusted by Clive Palmer and his pups, we can finally have reduced costs of a leg of lamb, cheaper energy cost and doohesline pegs from our friendly shops and butchers, and the pigs may fly.

Our federal government was deeply divided over the carbon tax, including division among the Liberal members and former leaders of the Liberal party, Mr Hewson and former Prime Minister John Howard. Howard was the father of the modern Liberal philosophy, who also advocated for carbon trading scheme but never had the courage to introduce it to the nation.

The Liberals are also deeply divided over renewable energy: there are some who understand that the burning of coal, along with other hydrocarbons, will cause untold harm. The science is there for all to see, we can't continue in this vain without our living space reaching the

point where most of the national tax base is eaten up trying to make our cities livable again. If you think it can't happen here, visit Beijing and other major industrial centres in China.

It was reported that Joe Hockey, our national treasurer, was aghast over the wind turbines adjacent to Lake George outskirts of Canberra. Well Mr Hockey, in a few months from now 90 per cent of ACT power source will come from those ugly windmills. Aren't you lucky that there are forward looking people around you that can see the untold benefits from alternative sources of energy?

Mr Hockey and Mr Abbott, it is high time that both of you started looking into a future with alternative energy sources that will provide all of our energy needs. That time will be here sooner rather than later. It is already happening around you, regardless of your outdated views or loyalties to hydrocarbon producing large companies. Please stop playing the song "Yesterday and how I long for

the days of yesterday".

Time to act is now, it takes courage to admit ones failures, but it's not too late. All it takes is the courage and wisdom to know when you are wrong. Do either of you Ministers have the courage?

Mark Ikonen
Dalmeida

Computers for Men's Sheds

I AM writing to let you know that beyondblue is giving away free computers and internet connections to newly-established Men's Sheds across Australia.

We still have quite a few computers to give away and I would encourage anyone thinking about establishing a new Men's Shed in their community to get in touch with the Australian Men's Shed Association, which administers this initiative.

The Australian Men's Shed movement has brought together thousands of men

over the past decade to share their interests, learn skills and build lifelong friendships - and this has benefited not only the communities in which the sheds have been established, but also the men themselves.

For men who don't have a computer at home, they can use the shed's computer to develop new skills, access websites, email family members and perhaps learn how to pay bills online.

Also, all of the Men's Sheds have a page on beyondblue's The Shed Online website www.theshedonline.org.au, where they can promote their activities and interact with the broad online community.

Research shows that attending a Men's Shed can improve men's mental and physical wellbeing by helping them feel socially connected and less lonely.

With loneliness and social isolation a growing problem in our communities, establishing a Men's Shed is one of the best ways to ensure that men in your community stay connected to each other.

The sheds often foster a sense of acceptance and create a sense of purpose as the men work together on projects such as making or fixing things for the community. So if there has been talk of starting up a Men's Shed in your area, please contact the Australian Men's Shed Association on 1300 550 009 to find out how to access the benefits that they bring.

George Harman
BeyondBlue

Under review

ON Thursday July 24 several of the shire's councillors, mayor and general manager met with the Planning Minister to talk about matters of concern to them in relation to bio-diversity, bio-banking, native vegetation issues, and the Planning and Environment Act.

One of the those who attended the meeting with Minister Stokes made comments on the ABC radio about what occurred on Monday morning. The Minister apparently has agreed to review the Act and associated regulations, which will take some time. The process involved legislative reviews and recommended changes to the legislation and regulations requires some significant consultative processes that most likely all local government areas of NSW will be asked to make submissions on.

It would be unlikely changes would be made to any legislated Acts to just satisfy the aspirations of residents and ratepayers of just one NSW local government area.

The recommendations of any planning and environment legislation reviews, I suspect, will be received in time with great enthusiasm by all NSW local government areas and their residents.

Allan Brown
Batemans Bay

Ailing Marine Park report card

Subject - Community Consultation:
Comment: It has been over nine months since the applications closed for the positions on the Batemans Marine Park Advisory Committee, this effectively means that little or no consultation has taken place within the community this year? Generally, a reluctance to share with others. Grade 1/10.

Subject - Improved Fish Stocks:
Comment: The claims of improved fish stocks have now changed to 'improved fish stock opportunities'.

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John Moore
Narooma

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Bones of contention

By EMILY BARTON

TOMAKIN residents are frustrated with the delay in re-opening a parking area at their boat ramp after a small amount of fragmented bone was discovered in the area nine months ago.

Council staff were inspecting a recently-installed water connection to the fish cleaning tables at Tomakin boat ramp in October when they noticed shell material in the water service trench.

They believed the shell could be part of a midden - an Aboriginal site of shellfish debris and other food waste accumulated over time.

During a site inspection from an archaeologist, a small amount of fragmented and weathered bone was found in an area nearby.

A grassed area at the boat ramp, normally used for parking, has been fenced off since the remains were found, including over the busy summer season.

An Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) spokeswoman said advice was sought from the NSW Coroner as to whether the bone was human, but the

tests were inconclusive because of the "highly degraded condition of the fragments".

"The Australian National University will conduct new analyses on the bone because it is important to clarify their origins before permanent measures are put in place to reopen the site while protecting its Aboriginal heritage values," she said.

"We expect these results within a few weeks."

OEH has indicated to council that a temporary solution could be put in place to reopen the site while the results are received.

"This would involve laying a protective cover of geotextile fabric and a layer of soil over the site," the spokeswoman said.

"A more permanent solution such as placing an asphalt cover would require an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit to be issued because major ground disturbance would be required."

Council's director of infrastructure Warren Sharpe said council was in direct liaison with OEH.

"The bones came to the surface through natural wear and tear, people parking in that area," Mr



CONCERNED: Tomakin resident Bill McKenzie wants answers about what is happening with the fenced-off site at the Tomakin Boat Ramp.

Sharpe said.

"We need to determine, in association with OEH, and that conversation is going on right now, as to whether we do a temporary covering, or we do some more permanent covering of that area."

He hopes to have a solution finalised by the end of August.

Tomakin Community Association president Debbie Camplin said the association supported the investigation, however a

long time had passed without any resolution.

"It's been over nine months since the fence was erected," Mrs Camplin said.

"The area is well used by boaters and visitors to the beach, and local residents are keen to see some action to reopen the area."

"While council has said they hope to have a resolution by the end of August, does this mean funding will be available to allow the re-opening of

the area?"

Tomakin resident Bill McKenzie said the fencing was taking away parking space for the tourists who visit the boat ramp.

"It is serving no purpose that we know of," Mr McKenzie said.

"We have been given very little information about what it is and why it happened."

"We would love to have the fence removed and we would like answers as well."

MAN CHARGED

A TUROSS Head man was charged with driving with a mid-range prescribed concentration of alcohol after he was stopped in Coogee Street about 6.45pm on Sunday.

The man was arrested and taken to Moruya Police Station.

He was issued a field court attendance notice and his drivers licence was suspended.

He will appear in court on August 8.

DRIVER NABBED

MORUYA Police charged a 66-year-old Moruya man with low-range drink-driving on Sunday afternoon, after he was stopped in the CBD.

Police breath-tested the man in his Ford ute in a car park about 2pm.

He was arrested and taken to Moruya Police Station, where he was charged with driving with a low-range prescribed concentration of alcohol and driving unlicensed.

The man was issued a field court attendance notice and will appear in Moruya Local Court on August 8.

ACCUSED IN

THE man who allegedly drove the car in a crash that killed Malua Bay's Kalleigh Fryer appeared briefly in Manly Local Court last Thursday.

According to the *Daily Mail*, the court heard Michael John Severino, 24, was three times the legal blood alcohol limit when the crash occurred in Terrey Hills early on April 10.

Kalleigh, 19, died at the scene while Mr Severino suffered minor injuries.

Last Thursday Mr Severino appeared in court on charges including dangerous driving occasioning death while under the influence of alcohol, negligent driving and driving with a high-range prescribed concentration of alcohol.

He did not enter a plea and the case was adjourned to September 11 at the Downing Centre in Sydney.

Kalleigh was farewelled at a funeral service at St Mary's church in Batemans Bay on April 22. A bucket list of things she wanted to do was distributed at the funeral, and this led to a Facebook page being set up (in Memory of Kalleigh Fryer) which now has more than 10,000 members from all over the world.

Council GM proposes special rates rise

BY CARMEN McINTOSH and EMILY BARTON

COUNCIL'S general manager Catherine Dale has moved to get the ball rolling on an application to increase rates higher than the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

Council rate rises are annually set by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal, a system known as rate pegging, and are usually capped at CPI.

However this week Ms Dale has sought approval from councillors to prioritise community infrastructure projects for consideration of a Special Rate Variation (SRV).

In a report presented to council last night, Ms Dale said a 2013 Resourcing Strategy identified a need for increased revenue in order to maintain assets and service levels, and while council had "aimed to more efficient" and made sav-

ings, it had a shortfall of funds.

"The cost of local government services has risen faster than inflation and council's income is limited by the state government rate pegging that has been at least 0.5 per cent below inflation each year for the past 10 years," Ms Dale said.

"There is a financial gap with the current level of funding... This leads to a significant and growing annual infrastructure renewal gap which is estimated at more than \$3 million per annum.

"It is recommended that council considers how it will address this gap."

Ms Dale said the options were to increase revenue by a rate increase above the rate peg amount, reduce services or service levels in council's general fund operations, or allow infrastructure assets to continue to deteriorate.

"An SRV is one way of providing additional funds to deliver and provide community infrastructure requested by the community, that cannot be funded from current revenue," she said.

The application for an SRV would need to demonstrate need and purpose, evidence the community is aware of the proposal, evidence it is based on realistic assumptions, and an explanation of productivity improvements and cost containment strategies realised by council in past years.

Ms Dale's recommendation is to compile a list of community infrastructure projects for consideration as part of an SRV, and preparation of a detailed community engagement strategy.

The outcome of the meeting was unknown by the time of print.

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May 2014

Date	Publication	Article Title
2 May 2014	Bay Post/Moruya Examiner	From the editor's desk

News Business**BayPost MORUYA (/)**

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From the editor's desk

May 2, 2014, 4 a.m.

MANY ratepayers will feel the pinch of increased rates next financial year if they are approved by council.



When you look at the weekly amount - \$1.95 – it does not seem like much.

But combine it with the ever-increasing cost of electricity and gas, food, petrol and insurance, to name a few, it adds to a seemingly insurmountable amount.

But just as residents face the burgeoning cost of living, so too does council.

In NSW, councils are required to cap their rate rises to the consumer price index, which this year is 2.3 per cent.

While the cap prevents council from setting its own exorbitant rates, instead it has left it with a shortfall, accumulated over decades, as the price of the cost of maintaining and creating infrastructure increases.

Many councils, faced with massive infrastructure backlogs, apply for special rate variations to raise their rates above the rate pegging amount.

Eurobodalla Shire Council general manager Dr Catherine Dale has not ruled out applying for one in the future.

Having been privy to Queanbeyan City Council's special rate variation process in 2010, I can assure you it is no easy task.

The variations require extensive reporting, planning and community consultation – councils need to demonstrate, and be accountable for, where the extra money will be spent.

Eurobodalla council has already begun an organisation service review and a condition assessment and revaluation of infrastructure assets.

So some time in the future we could feel the impact of an even greater rate increase – perhaps between six and 10 per cent.

Mayor Lindsay Brown assures residents this year's budget process involved a "tough" review process resulting in "substantial savings that will help us deliver and better meet our community's needs".

These needs include well-maintained, safe infrastructure and community facilities, a boost to the local economy and employment.

And the community needs to see that its money is being well spent.

December 2013

Date	Publication	Article Title
11 December 2013	Bay Post/Moruya Examiner	Rates rise pegged at 2.3 percent for 2014-15

News Business

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Bay Post MORUYA (1)

Rates rise pegged at 2.3 per cent for 2014-15

Dec. 11, 2013, 10:17 a.m.



EUROBODALLA Shire Council will be limited to raising its rates by 2.3 per cent next financial year, after a decision by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART).

IPART set the maximum increase of 2.3 per cent last week, slightly below inflation, to apply to general income collected by NSW councils.

Eurobodalla Shire Council general manager Catherine Dale said the figure would be a challenge, particularly as it was below the CPI.

"I think the main challenge will be in other services where we don't control the increase, like materials for road construction," she said.

"We'll need to take that into account in relation to how we structure our draft budget for council's consideration.

"We're always looking for grants and efficiencies."

Dr Dale said there was a large infrastructure gap across the state due to constant rate pegging, and the Eurobodalla was not immune.

"I think across NSW local

governments are probably putting in only about half of what they should for asset renewal, so the gap is quite strong," she said.

"We have some challenges like our pools, that's a major investment, some of our halls, we need to upgrade some of those and have some heating and cooling put in so the community can use them 12 months of the year."

Dr Dale did not rule out applying for a special rate variation in the future, which would allow council to increase rates above the pegging figure.

"Council has not resolved to (apply for a variation), we're having some very preliminary discussions," she said.

"If council goes down that road, it will be in strong engagement with the community. It will very clearly articulate what additional funds will go to."

If council was successful in a variation, Dr Dale personally would like to see the extra funds invested in social infrastructure, but any decision would be made by the council.

"For me, that's where I think it would be useful – playgrounds, boat ramps, assets the community can use," Dr Dale said.

"People might be more encouraged to come out and use them.

"I think (we need to) communicate and work with our community and engage our community about social infrastructure and what they think is important – they might have different views.

"If council goes down the path of a special rate variation . . . we understand we've got to justify it, we need to make sure we inform our community.

"That's being discussed but I think rate pegging is here to stay and you have to work to those challenges like you would in any other business."

June 2013

Date	Publication	Article Title
14 June 2013	Bay Post/Moruya Examiner	Eurobodalla council puts rates on hold

News Business

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Bay Post MORUYA (1)

Eurobodalla council puts rates on hold

By SALLY FOY

June 14, 2013, 6 a.m.

Eurobodalla residents will be spared the rate hikes being inflicted on their Bega Valley and Shoalhaven neighbours.

That's thanks to the shire's former council and budget discussions held in July last year.

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) this week approved an increase to the general income of Bega Valley Shire and Shoalhaven City councils, over the rate peg amount of 3.4 per cent.

However, a council spokesperson yesterday said Eurobodalla decided not to apply: "Because it didn't want to lock the new council into a rate rise without getting their support."

Instead, Eurobodalla Shire Council agreed to set its budget to the IPART rate peg amount of 3.4 per cent.

Average rates in the Bega Valley will rise between 13.5 per cent and 14.4 per cent over three years, to generate an additional \$2.62 million for roads and recreation infrastructure.

"It makes good financial sense," Bega Valley Shire mayor Bill Taylor said.

"Spend now and spend less, or delay and spend considerably more."

Shoalhaven mayor Joanna Gash similarly welcomed an additional \$2.3 million, an increase to general rates by 4.6 per cent over the rate peg limit.

"In coming to their decision IPART found that a special rate variation was affordable for the majority of local residents and would provide great assistance in addressing the area's infrastructure backlog," she said.