

Tyalgum Village & District Newsletter

June — July 2023

Servicing Tyalgum, Brays Creek, Byrrill Creek, Chillingham, Eungella, Limpinwood, Pumpenbil and surrounds.

Newsletter published by the Tyalgum District Community Association [TDCA]. The TDCA aims to enhance the social, environmental, and economic aspects of the Tyalgum Village and surrounding districts. TDCA advocates to the Local and State Government regarding Village and District issues. *Editor:* Rebecca McGuren— newsletter.tdca@gmail.com

Slip restoration progress heard at Tyalgum meeting

More than 60 residents and community representatives gathered at Tyalgum Hotel on Tuesday 11 July, to hear flood restoration works on Tyalgum Road are expected to start later this month pending final approvals. It's welcomed news for locals, who shared stories of economic burden, reduced school enrolments, the impact on the elderly and people living with disability, and continuing access challenges because of the road's closure since the February 2022 flood disaster. The meeting was attended by Council representatives, the contractor, SEE Civil Pty, and representatives from Regional NSW, Service NSW, and the Tweed Tourism Co. Locals were shown designs for the \$16m restoration project including a Pedestrian Access track (including limited parking) expected to open in August and a single-lane access road is expected to open to traffic by the end of the year. Nearby works on Limpinwood, Numinbah and Byrrill Creek roads are also expected to start in the latter half of this year. Council's Director Engineering David Oxenham said Council had heard loud and clear from members of the Tyalgum community around the urgency of having Tyalgum Road reopened. "We realise the continued impacts the closure of Tyalgum Road is having on businesses, individuals, and the community," he said. "Following engagement of contractor earlier this year the detailed design is now at 85 percent and if all goes to plan, construction can start in coming weeks." The community heard Council is responding to the serious consequences of natural disasters across the Shire and is doing all it can to priorities and progress the repairs. The Tyalgum community was thanked for the professional way the morning meeting was conducted.



Tyalgum RFS Brigade News

Recent activity

What is suspected to have been a carelessly thrown cigarette butt started a grass fire on Brays Creek Road on 25 July. This was a warm day after a lengthy dry spell. Luckily there was no wind and very little fuel in the adjoining paddock.

This incident should be a warning that our local fire season has begun. Carelessness or irresponsibility may now have very serious consequences. The benefit of the light rainfall over the last few days will soon dissipate.



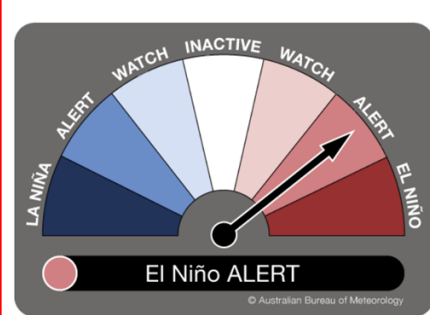
The effects of this roadside fire could have been much worse.

In early June an excavator was destroyed at a property on Tyalgum Ridge Road. These machines have a large amount of flammable material in a small space and fires are difficult to control.

Terry Davis inspects while Tristan Dafoe stands by with extra foam.

There has been 1 Motor Vehicle Accident (MVA) call-out. This was to a car that had rolled after dark on a tight bend near the end of Tyalgum Creek Road.

Distressingly, there have been 2 recent calls to recover cattle. One had injured itself after falling into a steep gully and the other was stuck in a dam. Both animals were exhausted and later died. The only solution seems to be the fencing-off of dangerous areas and the provision of water troughs. Volunteer Rescue Australia (VRA) assisted on both occasions.



Fire outlook and advice

The Northern hemisphere is experiencing record heat, wildfires and severe storms. Temperatures in the South of Italy and even Florence are in the high 40's while there has been a tornado in Milan and cricket ball sized hail in other parts of the North. Overseas agencies have declared an El Niño but the

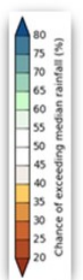
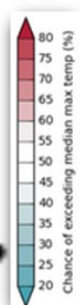
BOM still has us on alert only.

However the BOM also expects dry warm conditions over the next few months.

BOM 3-monthly rain outlook gives us a 40 to 45%

chance of exceeding median rainfall. So not better than 50-50.

BOM 3-monthly temperature outlook gives us a very high chance of exceeding median maximum temperature.



Call for Volunteers

New members are always welcome. During winter the Brigade meets in the Tyalgum Hall at 6pm on the 1st Friday of the month. Our training day is the following Sunday.

Enquiries: David Brock (Captain) 0413 113 171

Help the Tweed fight the war on waste!

The Australian Broadcasting Corporation's (ABC) [War on Waste program](#) has been raising awareness about the environmental issues caused by waste across Australia.

Season 3 of this popular show is out now and ready to highlight our biggest challenges, as well as showing us the steps we can take to reduce the amount of waste we generate in our households and businesses. TSC is asking Tweed residents to join the battle, so that we can work together to reduce our impact in the natural environment and adapt our behaviours for a more sustainable future.

In the first episode, the War on Waste echoes what we know: that plastics are a major problem when it comes to harming our environment.

Soft and hard plastics that can't be recycled go in our red kerbside bins and end up in landfill.

Plastic waste that makes it to our parks and waterways takes hundreds of years to break down and can seriously affect local wildlife and add to the microplastics in our ecosystems. Sadly, according to the NSW EPA, [60% of all litter in NSW](#) is some sort of plastic packaging or single use plastic item.

And according to this article from the [World Wildlife Federation Australia](#), plastic straws take around 200 years to break down. A plastic water bottle, up to 450 years. Although many types of plastic bottles and containers (such as takeaway food containers) can be recycled via your yellow household recycling bin, the best strategy is to choose to reuse or avoid plastic waste whenever possible.

Soft plastics such as plastic bags, chip packets, cling film and other food packaging – think of any packaging that makes a scrunchy sound when you squash it – are a big problem here in the Tweed.

Soft plastics are not recyclable and must be placed in your red kerbside bin.

You may not realise it, but bagged recyclable items can't be recycled and end up going to landfill.

This is one of our biggest bin contamination issues here in the Tweed: people placing recyclable items in plastic bags. A first step is to ditch the bag and free your recycling!

The same goes for food waste. Never place food waste in a plastic bag before it goes in your green bin.

If you want to use bags for food scraps, please ensure you only use Australian Standard compostable bags, these are the only bags that will not contaminate the green organics composting service we offer in the Tweed. Bin contamination disrupts the recycling and composting process and ultimately costs residents' money and resources to manage.

Put simply, soft plastics are incredibly difficult to recycle. The nature of consumer plastic packaging is that there are just so many different varieties of soft plastics. Currently, there is no cost-effective way for Council to recycle these materials, although we are continuing to look into options to recover this type of plastic. For more information on the complexities of plastic recycling here's a [great article by the ABC](#).

Until there is a better solution, please place all soft plastics in your red kerbside bin – or better still, avoid them altogether. We have included some tips below on how to avoid soft and single use plastics.

Simple ways to avoid single use and soft plastics:

Say no to single use plastics by using:

- reusable coffee cups
- reusable water bottles
- reusable bags and produce bags
- your own reusable containers at take away places where you can

cloth, beeswax or other reusable covers for leftovers, not plastic wrap.

Say no to single use plastics by using:

- reusable coffee cups
- reusable water bottles
- reusable bags and produce bags
- your own reusable containers at take away places where you can
- cloth, beeswax or other reusable covers for leftovers, not plastic wrap.

Reducing soft plastics by:

- baking not buying
- cutting down on chips or chocolate (we know this is a hard one!)
- buying bulk where you can
- using reusable bags and produce bags
- choosing loose produce, not package
- if you must buy packaged produce, reuse the bags for lunches or other food items.



By making simple changes we can all play a part in helping fight the war on plastic waste in the Tweed! Next up, we'll tackle the war on food waste!

The TDCA wishes to recognise the generations of the local Aboriginal people of the Bundjalung Nation who have lived in and derived their physical and spiritual needs from the forests, rivers, lakes and streams of this beautiful valley over many thousands of years as the traditional owners and custodians of these lands.



STRETCH CLASS FOR THE NOT SO STRETCHY

Join me in Tyalgum Hall
8am Thursdays

It will be a fun light hearted class that will challenge you a little bit as well as get your heart pumping. We will have the aid of a chair to help with balances.

Exercising is so good for mental health and cognitive function as well as prevention of many diseases.

Classes will be \$10.00

Juliana
0402743722



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Richmond Tweed Regional Library

Stop locations, dates and times are available at
www.rtrl.nsw.gov.au

Report your platypus sightings during August

Did you know these shy little Australians call the Tweed's diverse and beautiful freshwater creeks and rivers home? These amazing and ancient mammals are elusive, but it's not impossible to spot one! Platypus are active all year round but breeding season from August to October is the ideal time to spot them. That's why Platypus Month kicks off in August. We know very little about platypus behaviour and population trends in the Tweed, yet they are listed as

'near threatened' on the ICUN red list (<https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/40488/21964009>) of threatened species. To get a better understanding of where platypus live and their local conservation needs, Council is encouraging Tweed residents to put on their citizen scientist caps, pick up a pair of binoculars and help monitor platypus. Try and catch them when they are most active at dusk and dawn.

During Platypus Month in August, download the [iNaturalist app](https://www.inaturalist.org) and upload sightings to the Platypus Conservation Initiative Project - (<https://inaturalist.ala.org.au/projects/platypus-conservation-initiative>) here you can find all the information you need to get started. Alternatively, report sightings on Council's website (<https://www.tweed.nsw.gov.au/environment/coast-waterways/rivers-creeks>). Council is collecting records of platypus sightings to better understand where they live and whether populations are increasing or decreasing and how we can help. Your contribution will make a difference! All sightings will be added to the Atlas of Living Australia database (<https://www.ala.org.au/>), Australia's national biodiversity database. Information will be used to help protect these special creatures for current and future generations.

So why not find yourself a nice quiet place on the bank of one of Tweed's many freshwater rivers or creeks, **keep an eye out for platypus** and let us know what you see.



Clare Belfrage: In the Glow of Green — One of Australia's most renowned glass artists takes inspiration from our region

The Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre will present a new exhibition titled *In the Glow of Green* by leading Australian glass artist Clare Belfrage from Friday 4 August 2023.

Exclusive to the Tweed Regional Gallery, the exhibition is the outcome of Belfrage having undertaken a two-week residency at the Gallery's on-site studio, the Nancy Fairfax Artist in Residence Studio.

In 2022 Belfrage used her time here as an immersive research period – filled with walking, writing, photographing, drawing, thinking, smelling, feeling, being.

"On each day of the residency, Clare would visit a nearby national park, observing the small details of these natural environments such as moss, lichen and bark," said Gallery Director Susi Muddiman OAM.

"These patterns, colour and rhythms of nature became the inspiration for the creation of a new collection of glass objects made by the artist in her Adelaide home studio and the hot glass studio at Adelaide's iconic JamFactory. The resulting glass works are breathtaking in their colour, striking luminosity and detail. "This exhibition is an exciting opportunity to experience the work of a leading Australian artist working in the very special medium of glass.

"Additionally, it is inspired by the extraordinary detail of the natural world – our backyard. It's an honour for the Tweed Regional Gallery to present this exhibition, especially as it has a unique and direct connection to the Northern Rivers region." *Clare Belfrage: In the Glow of Green* will be on display in the Friends Gallery at the Tweed Regional Gallery until 26 November 2023.

For all activity and event details visit the Gallery website at <https://gallery.tweed.nsw.gov.au/Home>



Funding for farmers to kickstart environmental sustainability projects



If you build it, they will come. Or if you apply, you may receive!

The latest round of Tweed Shire Council's Sustainable Agriculture Small Grants Program is now open with applications being accepted until 25 August 2023.

The grant program has been running since 2018, providing farmers with financial and technical support to initiate projects that improve the health of soils, waterways and biodiversity on local farms. Grants of up to \$4,000 are available for eligible activities that trial or lead to the adoption of improved farming practices. Council's Program Leader – Sustainable Agriculture Eli Szandala said local farmers had embraced the program and were successfully using the funding with excellent environmental outcomes.

"Some of these projects include reducing livestock access to waterways and natural areas, trialling the use of biological controls as substitutes for traditional chemicals, or implementing rotational grazing and multi-species cropping systems," Mr Szandala said.

"Other farmers have used the funds to plant additional trees on farms or to come up with innovative solutions to their own unique challenges.

"Healthy farms are the backbone of healthy communities and this grant program gives our local producers the opportunity to take the sustainability challenge to the next level and put aspirations into practice.

"Council is particularly interested in supporting projects that have lasting environmental benefit and help farmers to better prepare for the climate disruptions we are increasingly experiencing."

One beneficiary of funding from the program is David McNaught from Tweed River Pecans, who has completed 2 projects with support from the grant program.

"We successfully trialled the use of a fungal biological control and foliar sprays to eliminate the need for synthetic chemicals as well as completing a project to exclude cattle from a wetland on our farm," Mr McNaught said.

"We have seen an amazing regeneration of wetland species since we fenced the cows out and the water coming through the wetland is now so much cleaner than before."

The Sustainable Agriculture Small Grants Program highlights Council's commitment to working with the community to reduce our impact on the natural environment and adapt to climate change for a sustainable future.

To view the grant guidelines and case studies of previous grant recipients, visit tweed.nsw.gov.au/agriculture or contact the Program Leader – Sustainable Agriculture on 02 6670 2400 for further information.

Farm walk and talk program

To further support sustainable farming, Council is introducing a farm walk and talk program to be held on the first Thursday of every month.

Commencing on **Thursday 3 August**, the events will showcase local farms that have participated in the grant program and highlight their sustainability initiatives. Further details will be released closer to the date.



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juliana.tranquility@gmail.com

Community Contacts

Tyalgum District Community Association [TDCA]

☑ Representing the community on all local matters.
Meets 3rd Wednesday of the month—6.00pm at the Tyalgum Community Hall. Contact: Rebecca McGuren, Secretary, newsletter.tdca@gmail.com

TDCA Newsletter

☑ Issues go out every 2 months. Contact: Rebecca McGuren, Editor, newsletter.tdca@gmail.com

Tyalgum Community Hall Association

☑ Meets 1st Tuesday of the month. Contact: Secretary at tyalgumcommunityhall1908@gmail.com / Website <http://tyalgumcommunityhall.org.au>

Tyalgum District Fire Service

☑ Meets 1st Friday of the month at the Fire Shed (opposite Tyalgum Pub) at 6.00pm. All welcome. Contact David Brock, Captain, on 0413 113 171.

Tyalgum Recreation & Flora Reserve Trust

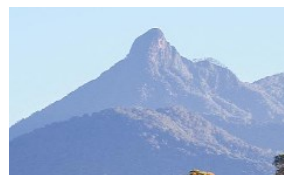
☑ Contact John Kavanagh, Secretary, at jka-vanagh1967@gmail.com

Tyalgum Business Association

☑ Meets 1st Monday of the month at 6.30pm at Flutterbies. Contact Brad Sims, Secretary, at bradsims@bigpond.com

Discover Tyalgum Facebook

☑ <https://www.facebook.com/discovertyalgum/>



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