



The Friends of the Old Bega Hospital NEWSLETTER MAY 2025

The Old Bega Hospital Revival project secured first place in the 2025 National Trust (NSW) Heritage Awards for Excellence in Built Conservation and also received the Judges' Choice Award, the top honor in heritage awards, for its exceptional conservation philosophy. This achievement is credited to the dedication of volunteer Land Managers, the expertise of Architects -Design 5, Leser Build and its tradespeople, and the support of the Public Works Department. Funding from state and federal grants, along with two decades of community volunteerism, has been instrumental in this success. The Bega Region community's politeness, persistence, and patience have paid off, resulting in a high-standard recreation of history. Thank you to everyone involved in the rebuild.

OBH Merchandise Alert!

Stock up on our classic tees, now reprinted and available for \$25, and our super-soft T-towels at \$20. Secretary Kay has been cooking up something special with Batemans Bay's Select Screen Printing, teasing linen aprons and tote bags perfect for gifting. Get your OBH gear and treat yourself or a loved one!

Raffle Excitement Ahead!

Friends, in collaboration with the Bega Chamber of Commerce and Industry, are on the hunt for new donors for our 2025 Business House Raffle, so keep your eyes peeled for exciting prizes! Once we have our donors locked in, Val, Kay, and Judy will be back at their post in front of Sportspower, selling raffle tickets, merchandise, and Friends memberships. Our last raffle, the Bega Valley Reality Raffle, was a massive success, raising \$2000! A huge shout-out to the two Robs for their generous donation of 4 x \$250 prize vouchers, which were snapped up by lucky winners Gloria Cook, Paul Kelly, Cheryl Barry, and Stephen Jay. Get ready to join the fun and support a great cause!

Bendigo Bank Continues to Support the OBH Landscaping Initiative

Bendigo Bank has once again shown its support for Friends with a \$2500 grant to fund our comprehensive Landscaping Plan, a major long-term initiative led by both Friends and our Land Manager. This overarching plan aims to enhance our overall site, with an initial focus on establishing a garden boundary between our site and the encroaching industrial estate. The project will involve extensive community consultation and offer numerous opportunities for hands-on experience.

Landscaping Working Bees To kickstart this initiative, we have established monthly Working Bees on the last Saturday of every month, beginning on March 29. These sessions

start at 9:30 AM, with finishing times varying depending on the task at hand. Food and drinks will be provided to keep your energy up. Judy Geary will ensure there's a suitable job for everyone who participates.

Our next Working Bee is scheduled for May 31, where we will be spreading mulch around the sequoia trees at the hospital entrance. Please bring a metal rake if you have one, or borrow from a neighbour. Gloves are also recommended for comfort.

Tenant Artisan Workshops at OBH

Thanks to a \$5000 grant from Bendigo Bank, we're excited to offer free workshops at OBH, led by local experts. The following organizations will be running workshops, sharing their unique skills with the community:

- Bega Potters : Contact begavalleyotters@gmail.com
- Bega Textilers: Contact diannehunter75@gmail.com
- Bega Seed Savers : Contact via their webpage
- Bega Leadlighters: Mosaic Course: Scheduled for mid-June, potentially over two days
Contact pturner666@bigpond.com

These workshops are a fantastic opportunity to learn from local experts in their fields. Don't miss out on this chance to develop new skills and connect with your community!

Friends, on behalf of the Bega Valley community, sincerely thank Bendigo Bank for their ongoing and valuable support

Friends Membership Drive – Volunteer help will be needed to ensure we can keep our Regional OBH Community Cultural Centre in community hands. It only costs \$10 to become a Friend of the OBH. A regular newsletter is sent to financial Friends. The newsletter keeps members up to date with all the activities, events, meetings workshops etc. happening at the precinct. Membership forms are available on our website and will be available from our Sportpower Carp St. Stall, reopening soon.

Tenant's Reports:

Bega Weavers and Spinners and all things Textile.

Our Textile workshops planned for the Bendigo Bank Grant.

There will be two separate workshops open to the community held at the OBH.

Workshop 1. Acid Dyeing Demonstrations. Two of our most experienced dyers (Jenny has over 50 years of extensive experience and Di has a Bachelor of Fine Arts and 30 years experience) will give a demonstration on how to dye fibre using acid dyes. Attendees will be able to go home and apply the techniques to their own fibres. Demonstrations will include: basic colour theory, blending, techniques for dyeing in pots and in microwaves. Morning Tea will be provided. Date June 1.

Workshop 2. Open Learning Day. A day for learning new skills. A number of tables will be set inside and outside (weather permitting) our OBH workspace. Each table will be dedicated to some form of textile art and manned by someone skilled in that technique. Activities will include Pompom making and the many uses of pompoms, Felting, Crocheting, Embroidery and possibly more. Proposed date – a date in July school holidays – to be determined.

Workshop will be suitable for children- teens OK on their own, under 12 with adult.

Men's Shed: A Testament to Three Ps

Patience, Perseverance, and Persistence—these three traits have defined the journey of the Bega Men's Shed. Born from an idea by founding president Eric Myers, the shed became a

reality through the dedication of a small but determined committee: Bob Russell, Robert (Taz) Harlow, Ray Spencer, and grants guru Fiona Scott.

Their six-year journey to find a suitable site led them to OBH, where protracted negotiations secured the current location. Despite challenges and rising costs, local support, grants, and member donations ensured the shed's completion and opening in February 2015 by Andrew Constance.

Today, membership has grown from 15 to 29, and the shed is a well-equipped workshop fostering camaraderie and conversation. The atmosphere encourages social interaction, and families are included in regular dine-outs and social events.

Fundraising is vital for the shed's sustainability, with initiatives like the OBH Raise the Roof Spring Fair and kindling sales through Mitre 10. The shed is open Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM, with access outside these hours for members.

For more information, contact Shed secretary Allan McDonald at 0414347839.

The Community Opening: Format

Friends Community Opening Day will be held on Saturday 21st June and will have a similar format to Raise the Roof Family Fair – music, market stalls-(profit and NFPs), open studios and workshops, food, entertainment etc. The action will be centred on the restored OBH which will have rooms devoted to historical displays, the story of the rebuild, and future plans for landscaping and the precinct in general. As well catch up with people who have had connections with OBH through family or work from the beginning, 1880, when planning first began.



We won.

Lian Wong from Design 5, at the Awards Ceremony in Sydney. Lean was the supervising architect on the project team. It was Lean's meticulous work with Leser Build and her knowledge of Heritage Buildings added to the magic of the restoration.

 **Bendigo Bank**

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Bega and Pambula
& District