

**NEWS**



HELPING FAMILIES: Far South Coast Family Support Service's Laura Botto, Andrea Powell, Kellie Bateman and Pauline Wellington.

**Son of 'Alby' Shultz to face court**

A SON of the late Liberal Party MP, Albert John "Alby" Schultz, had his bail changed in Bega Local Court last week. Dean Shultz, 49, now residing in a Wallaga Lake caravan park is facing a charge of breaching an apprehended violence order in August. The court altered a bail condition banning Shultz from entering Cootamundra, to instead allow him to enter as long as he's in the company of his mother. The matter will return to Cootamundra Local Court in November.

**Launch of activities**

MENTAL Health Month is recognised and celebrated throughout the month of October. The Bega Valley Suicide Prevention Action Network (SPAN) has put together a calendar of events that encourage people and communities to learn more about mental health. SPAN patron Mike Kelly will officially launch Mental Health Month at the Bega Valley Regional Gallery on Wednesday from 11.30am with Suicide Prevention Australia CEO Sue Murray.

**Giving families support**

BY CLAIRE LUPTON

THE Far South Coast Family Support Service's focus was on improving the well-being and conditions for families and children said Andrea Powell, the services manager, at the annual general meeting in Bega on September 20.

Through its programs and its family workers, the Family Support Service achieved and made a difference in the lives of children and young

people. It has improved school attendance, access to medical and dental treatment and mental health counselling, participation in school excursions and out-of-school activities, strategies for dealing with bullying and reducing conflict in the home, as well as reducing school suspension.

With families the support service reduced conflict between parents and children.

About 90 per cent of sup-

ported families said they learnt new things to assist with parenting, had more secure housing, remained connected, their children had food and school clothes, their broken white goods were replaced or repaired as well as having an increased understanding children's physical and emotional development and needs.

There was also improved referral to specialist services to address mental health issues, domestic violence

services and social housing providers.

Family Support employs eight permanent staff, one casual early childhood educator and an Indigenous project worker.

Child, youth and family workers are Kellie Bateman, Geoff Bevitt, Valerie Schmid-Oke and Chelsea Yarrie, Laura Botto is in community education (parenting), Ms Powell is the services manager, Pauline Wellington an office manager and Linda

Fowler is an early childhood educator.

In her report, the chairperson Joanna Rideaux said the service's increased presence in Eden "was one of our long-standing identified goals".

She was re-elected chairperson of the management committee with vice chairperson Claire Lupton, Kylie Dummer the secretary and public officer, treasurer Caroline Long and committee members Mary Hourigan, Paul Brunton and Tas Fitzer.

**INSIDE TODAY**

News	1-5	Classifieds	8-9
Opinion	6	Sport	10-12
Community News	7		

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**WEATHER**

**TODAY**  
Possible late shower  
Min: 7°C Max: 22°C

**TOMORROW**  
Partly cloudy  
Min: 7°C Max: 22°C

**THURSDAY**  
Mostly sunny  
Min: 9°C Max: 25°C

**FRIDAY**  
Partly cloudy  
Min: 9°C Max: 28°C

**CONTACTS**

Bega District News is published every Tuesday and Friday and can be read online seven days a week at [www.begadistrictnews.com.au](http://www.begadistrictnews.com.au). We welcome your inquiries on the platforms below.

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**FACEBOOK Introduction** Thu 13 & 20 Oct 6-8pm \$75  
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