

TUESDAY AUGUST 2, 2011

Bega District News

Proudly part of the community since 1864

Bega Bemboka Bermagui Candelo Cobargo Quaama Tathra Wolumla

\$1.60 including GST



Bega West Little News
Page 10



Out and About
Page 8



Roosters still on top
Sport

AT LAST!

• After years of talk and planning, work starts on the bypass

Steve Stevens

AFTER almost 50 years of talk, the much heralded Bega Bypass has begun.

Even though it is a small start, nonetheless, according to Mike Kelly, Member for Eden-Monaro, it is still a start.

"This is the first step, just the first step in the whole process of actual construction," Mr Kelly said.

"It has been a long time coming but now the people of Bega know all the promises and talk over the decades has come to this - the work has begun."

Mr Kelly said the community had been - and was entitled to be - sceptical about whether the bypass would ever eventuate, but this was a clear indication that all that scepticism could be laid to rest.

"It is really exciting and it is something I have worked towards for several years, so to see things start is just terrific," he said.

"People have said they would never believe it until they saw machinery on the site, well now they can."

According to Mr Kelly, the Roads and Traffic Authority had three local companies tender for the works with Bega business RD Miller Pty Ltd, Specialised Earthworks, given the nod.

"It's fantastic to see local companies given the work for this phase of the project and to see all the money staying in town."

Site manager of the works Dick Blacka told Mr Kelly the company started working on the bypass infrastructure last week.

Continued page 3



• Jarrod Morehead (in bobcat), site manager Dick Blacka, Member for Eden-Monaro Mike Kelly and Sam Pickersgal give the thumbs up as work starts on the Bega Bypass.

• The BDN of February 3, 1967 - 44 years and six months ago - reported the new bridge and the bypass would be started within the year. The bridge would be completed in two years and the bypass at a later date. The route was to go, as it does now, behind Bega West School, and come out near what was the Tathra Reservoir, further south. The cost was estimated at \$2.2 million, a far cry from today's estimate of some \$60 million.

Tathra HOTEL

SAT AUG 6

STARLIGHT FOUNDATION BENEFIT NIGHT

8.30PM - ELVIS IS IT With TRIBUTE ENTERTAINER JOHNNY GARON PLUS DJ SET
\$15 over 18 \$10 under 18 - Come and have a great night & get behind this great cause!



Work starts on bypass at last



• Dick Blacka and Mike Kelly check out plans for the bypass.

From page 1

"We will be working on infrastructure for water and sewerage underneath the new bypass for the next few months," Mr Blacka said.

Mr Kelly said there would now be a stream of projects in the Bega Valley that would be the subject of continued growth and benefit to the region.

"The Woolworths development will be finishing when the roadworks get underway for the bypass and then the new regional hospital will start shortly afterwards," he said.

"The government is proud to be involved with two of those projects, the bypass and the hospital, and to know they will create local jobs for local people."

Welcoming the start of the work, Bega Valley Shire mayor Tony Allen said it was "a great day".

"This continues the theme of dreams for the improvement and advancement of the Bega Valley that are now coming

true," he said.

"There are a number of projects that people over the years have thought would never happen and now they are."

Along with the bypass, Cr Allen listed the new regional hospital, the projects around the Eden Wharf, the Yellow Pinch pipeline and the Woolworths development, as projects that would enhance the whole shire.

"As they say, there has been a lot of 'talking the talk', but now we are 'walking the walk', and there will be benefits for everyone in these projects."

Cr Allen also commented on the work done by Mr Kelly in his "consistent lobbying for funding" and for "sticking to the task".

Cr Allen was also grateful for the work done by Member for Bega Andrew Constance.

"Both our government representatives are working for the Shire."

Works on the actual road are expected to start early in 2012.