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COUNCILLOR COLUMN

Life on the back bench moves at a far slower pace. Since the election I have found time for jobs around home, a covid delayed holiday, occasional teaching, and some volunteering: all rewarding.

I now have more time to scrutinize decisions and involve myself in debate not possible as the moderator.

I advocate for improved telecommunications along the Gocup Rd, Snowy Mountains Highway, Tooma, Maragle and of particular concern the forestry area around Argalong.

The demerger proposal has advanced further, I urge community members to now contact the Minister for Local Government, asking her to act immediately and positively on our behalf.

Evacuation Centre, while Council has decided to focus on sites in Lockeridge Park and Richmond Park I continue to believe that Tumut High with a flat site, access to students through the rear during school hours, and access to the public after school hours through the front is a viable option. Under this option the asset is not Council's, reducing costs to ratepayers.

The Adelong Main Street has dangerous slip hazards and water pooling. I encourage concerned users to contact council and our local member, Dr Joe McGirr.

- **Cr James Hayes**

BATLOW CARAVANPARK WORKER ACCOMMODATION

The Worker Accommodation project at the Batlow caravan park is gaining momentum.

Building materials have been delivered to the old cannery site to prepare for the storm water installations, which should start next week, weather dependent.



THIS YEAR'S POOL SEASON

Due to a shortage of lifeguards, opening dates for our pools have had to be revised.

The Adelong and Tumut pools will now open to after-hours card holders and the public on Saturday 15 October.

Opening date information for Batlow, Khancoban and Tumbarumba pools will be promoted soon.

We are working hard to recruit lifeguards and swim instructors for the 2022/23 season so if you know anyone who is looking for a summer job, please encourage them contact Council for more information.

Despite the wet weather upgrade works continue to advance at the Batlow, Khancoban and Tumut Pools.

The Batlow and Tumut pools are both getting new learn to swim pools and splash play areas, and Batlow and Khancoban are getting new modern amenity facilities.



ARTIFACTS RETURNED TO COUNTRY

The replacement and realignment of Bombowlee Creek Bridge required the takeover of a large amount of green land.

Council conducted an archaeological dig of the area before construction, to ensure any Aboriginal cultural heritage in the area was managed and protected.

Traditional owners from the Brungle-Tumut Local Aboriginal Land Council were involved in identifying a small number of Indigenous cultural items buried in the area.

Last Thursday we completed the last piece of the puzzle and revisited the site to return the artifacts to country.

Council partnered with the Softwoods Working Group to secure funding of \$6,729,920 from the NSW Government's Restart NSW Fund for the upgrade. The new bridge opened to the public in July 2022.

Pictured:
Ramsey and
Jamie
Freeman
from the
Brungle-
Tumut Local
Aboriginal
Land
Council with
SVC staff



RETURN AND EARN EXPANSION

Works are underway to double the capacity of the automated NSW Return and Earn container deposit in Tumut.

A manual collection point was opened at the Tumut Resource Recovery Centre back in December 2017 and in November 2019 the collection point became fully automated. Since opening twenty-two million drink containers have been diverted from landfill through the Tumut scheme.

To accommodate the scheme's expansion, the Return and Earn depot and Tumut Re-Use Shop are swapping sheds so the Re-Use Shop will be closed until November while the changeover is completed.



UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Applications are now open for the 2023 Snowy Valleys Council Scholarship program.

The scholarship aims to support three eligible Charles Sturt University students with the opportunity to apply for a \$3,500 scholarship.

Eligible students must have completed Years 11 and 12 in the Snowy Valleys region and be living or have a parent residing in the area.

Recipients of the 2022 Snowy Valleys Council Scholarships were local students Brianna McAuliffe, Amelia Murray, and Rose Petfield.

Pictured: Cr Hayes with 2022 scholarship awardee Amelia Murray



GM RECRUITMENT UPDATE

It is unfortunate that unexpected changes occurred late in the recruitment process for Council's new General Manager, extending the initial projected timelines. However, Council is continuing to progress the options available in order to secure the best person for the role as soon as possible.

At the September Council Meeting Councillors resolved to proceed with a two director organisational structure model, and advertising for these senior roles has commenced.

Other positions also being advertised include Pool Lifeguards, IT Support Officers, Finance Manager, HR Support Officer, and an Asset Maintenance/Weed Control Team Member.