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Thomas Moss, Snowy Valleys Citizen of the Year 2023

Local Khancoban resident Thomas Moss has been recognised for his 40+ years of volunteering and supporting the regional defence communities and his local Khancoban community.

Through his involvement in the Murray Border Association of Vietnam Veterans (MBAVV) and Legacy, Tom has supported fellow veterans, war widows and their families, and organised and led camps for Legatee children.

As an engineer, Tom proudly served the Australian Defence Force for a six-year period during the Vietnam War and the Papua New Guinea – Citizen Military. On leaving the ADF, Tom was employed by the Snowy Mountains Hydro Electric Scheme in Cabramurra. He retired from Snowy Hydro in 2002 and returned to Khancoban where he continued his Legatee support and took to volunteering his time at the Khancoban Golf Course, council, and other community groups.

At 78 years of age, Tom is the first to offer to assist someone. He continues to volunteer to maintain the golf course to an excellent standard and is still active in Legacy and the MBAVV.



AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS

Congratulations to our 2023 Snowy Valleys Australia Day Award recipients who have been recognised for their outstanding community contributions.

- **Snowy Valleys Citizen of the Year – Thomas Moss, Khancoban**
- **Snowy Valleys Service to the Community – Jen Vinge, Jingellic**
- **Snowy Valleys Sportsperson of the Year – Piper Duck, Tumut**
- **Snowy Valleys Sports Team of the Year – Franklin Public School's Girls' Basketball Team, Tumut**

Congratulations also to our Achievement Award recipients: Mary Hoodless, Danica Peel, Terry Macgregor, Rodney McLachlan, Gemma-Loiuse Bremner, Janet Kendall, Lorraine Oliver, Erin Louise Nurthen, Robyn Hotston, Deirdre Greenhalgh and the Ournie Hall Committee, Robert Ironside, Toby Roots, Nate Annetts, and the Tumut Bulls Rugby Club.

COUNCILLOR COLUMN – MAYOR IAN CHAFFEY

It is 12 months since this Council was elected and, in that time, it would be safe to say that the journey has not been easy.

Six new Councillors were elected and whilst some had previous Local Government experience it has taken a lot of time to get across the issues confronting your council.

The state of the council's financial position and the backlog of works as a result of grant funding on top of the normal functions that the council is supposed to deliver have caused serious concern.

Outstanding issues such as the evac centre, airport extension, unfinished pool improvements, and RFS relocation are slowly being resolved but will need to be carefully managed to remain within budget.

Mr Ken Gouldthorp is the new General Manager and has brought a new style to SVC. We as a council need to be much more in touch with the residents and ratepayers and I and my fellow Councillors are part of that change.

On another note, council has been successful in gaining two new grants one for River Glade Oval for \$800k and the other of \$300k for the Basketball Stadium at Tumbarumba. Both these grants are for the refurbishment of existing facilities and will have a long-term benefit to the community provided they are well maintained.

Council will start the budget process shortly and will be paying particular attention to completing outstanding works and planning for the works required as a result of funding for the Brindabella Road, a project that has been on the community's priority list for many decades.

The money allocated will bring about major improvement and to all those who have worked constantly to achieve this outcome over a long time, thank you it is wonderful news.

The coming 12 months should see a change in focus, existing works completed, and new works that fit within the long-term financial capabilities of your council completed, on time, on budget, and fit for purpose. - Ian Chaffey



JEN VINGE, SNOWY VALLEYS SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY 2023



Jen has been recognised for her valued contribution to the Jingellic community. She has been instrumental in leading the redevelopment of the Jingellic Showgrounds and becoming the first female firefighter to join the Jingellic fire brigade.

Jen has been involved in many local committees including the Jingellic Show, Jingellic Trail Ride, Jingellic Rural Bushfire

Brigade and the Jingellic Hub. She is also the local coordinator of the Sam McPaul Memorial plus multiple other local responsibilities.

During the 2019/20 bushfire, Jen assisted with establishing and coordinating the Jingellic Emergency Welfare Centre while also defending her own property, which was tragically burnt out.

In the fire aftermath, she single-handedly established the Blazeaid Camp and was an active member of the Jingellic Recovery Committee. Jen also organised emergency fodder for over 100 local properties and would be seen daily driving the tractor and unloading or loading hay, ensuring every property was provided with stock feed.

Jen is known for her friendly way of working with people, and her humour is always welcome, particularly during difficult times. Her dedication and commitment to the Jingellic community are endless.

THE FRANKLIN PUBLIC SCHOOL'S GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM, SNOWY VALLEYS SPORTS TEAM OF THE YEAR 2023

Recognised for their team spirit Alliena Roddy, Sophie Jones, Ellie Cobden, Jaylee Byrne, Vicky Doon, Alice Shepherd, Maci Appleby, and Ella Appleby, aided by coach Reece Mastellotto were the NSW PSSA Knockout Champions for 2022, beating out 218 schools across NSW to win the title. They never took a backward step even when facing defeat and went on to pull out the win. They are not only fantastic athletes but are considered brilliant ambassadors for their school and their wider community.



PIPER DUCK, SNOWY VALLEYS SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR 2023

Piper is recognised for her local, state, national and international sporting achievements.

Piper is an Australian Wallaroo who competed at the Rugby World Cup in New Zealand in 2022. She is a Player of National Interest in the Australian Rugby 7's and last year represented Australia in Los Angeles and San Diego. Piper is also a NSW Waratah and played in the 2022 Super W competition.

Piper is also known as an extremely humble young lady who gives back to her community. When she was back in Tumut during the pandemic, Piper volunteered at training sessions for the Bullants and helped with sports rugby at McAuley Catholic School. She also donated a jumper to the Bullants to auction, which raised \$1,500 for charity. She also presented awards at the McAuley Catholic School 2022 presentation night.

Piper has an inaugural Barker College medal named after her. 'Awarded to the female Rugby player who has excelled on the field by showing commitment, courage, discipline and self-belief whilst remaining humble and displaying good sportsmanship'- this award is a true reflection of Piper.



NEW CITIZENS WELCOMED



Congratulations to the 34 new Australian Citizens who took the pledge on January 26 in Tumut.

The ceremony was a celebration of diversity with families and individuals from 12 different birth countries including Brazil, India, the Philippines, South Africa, Britain, Germany, Canada, Zimbabwe, Japan, Pakistan, Egypt, and the Solomon Islands joining Councilors and the Snowy Valleys Australia Day Ambassador, Bruce Elder in Stockwell Gardens to officially make their oaths.

This is the largest group of new Australians to take their oaths that Council has ever hosted, so the occasion was significant in many ways.