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LOCAL GOVERNMENT WEEK – LOVE YOUR LIBRARY

It's Local Government Week and in celebration, we're shining a spotlight on our beloved Libraries.

Our Libraries are more than just sources of information. They are vibrant neighbourhood hubs, providing free access to books, films, music, and safe public spaces for social engagement.

We operate community libraries in Adelong, Batlow, Tumbarumba and Tumut, and a mobile library service also visits Jingellic, Khancoban and Tooma.

Last year our Libraries welcomed over 54,200 visitors!

At the Library, everyone is welcome, and everyone truly belongs.



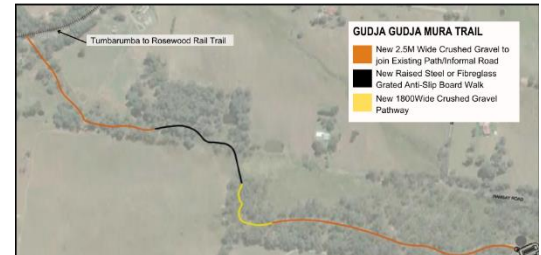
Local Government Week is a chance for councils to celebrate the work and variety of services we provide for our communities.

Local Government Week in 2023 runs from Monday 31 July to Sunday 6 August.

TRAILS PRIORITISED FOR FUNDING

Council has prioritised three significant projects from the Snowy Valleys Regional Tracks and Trails Masterplan to ensure a clear plan is in place should suitable funding become available.

The Tumut River Walk project; The Batlow to Tumut Rail Trail - Stage 1: Batlow to Wybalena; and the Gudja Gudja Mura Trail are estimated to bring a boost to the region's tourism of between \$2.5M to \$5.8M as well as increasing local user enjoyment and education.



COUNCILLOR COLUMN – CR JAMES HAYES

Many residents may be experiencing bill shock with many of our day-to-day fixed costs rising, interest rates significantly higher and the farming community experiencing depressed livestock prices.

If you are having trouble paying your council rates, please contact the council to assess the best way forward; call 1300 275 782 (1300 ASK SVC). Likewise, if other bills are causing you concern, remember there is help available.

For electricity or phone contact your provider's Accounts/ Hardship section to discuss your situation and set up a payment plan. For help with energy visit <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/energy-accounts-payment-assistance-eapa-scheme>

Residents can also access Free Financial Counselling with Anglicare's Financial Counsellor Chris who visits Tumut every Thursday. Bookings through the Tumut & District Neighbourhood Centre on 6947 2893

Tumut hosted the Upper House Parliamentary enquiry into the undergrounding of high-voltage electricity cables last week. I believe that this is the best option for our community, and I look forward to the coming report on their findings.

Last fortnight I travelled the Brindabella Road to Canberra and the crew working on the road have done an exceptional job. With another \$37 million promised for the road, we will see major improvements over the next couple of years. The road although improved still has treacherous sections, especially during times of bad weather, if you are using the road do so with caution.



I would like to welcome our new Interim General Manager Steve Pinnuck, I look forward to working with him for the next year. I would also take the opportunity to thank outgoing GM Ken Gouldthorp for his help during his time in the Snowy Valleys.

BUSINESS SNOWY VALLEYS AWARDS

Congratulations to all the winners of the recent Snowy Hydro Business Snowy Valleys Awards.

Council was proud to sponsor the Outstanding Start-Up award which was taken out by Haul Fly Fishing.

The full list of awards and winners were:

- The Local Pizzeria - winner of Business of the Year, Excellence in Large Business and Employer of Choice
- Haul Fly Fishing - winner of Outstanding Start-Up and Outstanding Visitor Experience
- Brodie Palmer of Rural Health - winner of Outstanding Employee
- Active Ageing - winner of Excellence in Diversity & Inclusion
- Christopher Barron of Domino's Tumut - winner of Outstanding Young Business Leader
- Di Gorman of Westpac - winner of Outstanding Business Leader
- TMFIT PT - winner of Excellence in Micro Business
- Whisk & Dish winner of Excellence in Small Business
- Batlow Tumut Rail Trail – winner of Outstanding Community Organisation



Mayor Ian Chaffey presenting the Outstanding Start-Up award to Angus Reynolds of Haul Fly Fishing.

Photo courtesy of Robert van der Male

WELCOME NEW CITIZENS

Congratulations to our region's newest citizens Ms Chalita Hutchinson and Mrs Latda Sukkrathok who took their citizenship oaths last week in front of councillors, family and friends.

We wish them all the very best.

We have welcomed 36 new citizens to the region so far this year.



NEW ORGANICS SORTING MACHINE

A new impressive piece of equipment which will play a vital role in our organics processing system is now onsite in Batlow where staff have been learning how to use it.

The Trommel Screen efficiently separates soil, sand, gravel, stones, green waste, wood chips, compost, recycled materials, and glass.

The curved cylinder screen spins to sort through the material. As it rotates, wet materials tumble around, while air is added to make the soil and mulch lighter and drier working to achieve the highest quality product.

Different screen sizes will be used to produce various end product consistencies from finer soil to chunky bark.

The machine can process 50m³/hour which is equivalent to around three full FOGO collection truck loads, plus, it runs on electricity and will be solar-powered when moved to its final home at the new Gilmore FOGO facility.



EPA UPDATE – ODOUR ISSUE IN TUMUT

The EPA has been investigating odour complaints around Gilmore and Tumut and has issued a clean-up notice to Tumut Waste Pty Ltd at Bellettes Landfill.

They are now working with the licensee to put measures in place to reduce the odour.

They have also engaged NSW Health, Council, SafeWork NSW, Fire and Rescue NSW and industry to further mitigate the impacts.

NSW EPA Executive Director Operations Carmen Dwyer said more work will be required in the coming months, but residents should already be seeing an improvement.

"The source of the odour was difficult to identify because it was so widespread, and I want to thank the community for their patience while multiple inspections occurred," Ms Dwyer said.