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NAIDOC WEEK IN REVIEW ❤️💛❤️

It was fantastic to see so many people celebrating NAIDOC Week 2024 with the theme "Keep the Fire Burning! Blak, Loud and Proud" at our annual flag-raising ceremonies in Tumut and Tumbarumba.

In Tumut Auntie Sue Bulger OAM gave a heartfelt Welcome to Country and NAIDOC address before the raising of the Australian and Indigenous flags. A smoking ceremony and morning tea was then held at the Riverside Café.



In Tumbarumba, community Elder Uncle Craig Wilesmith led the Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony. The Australian and Indigenous flags were proudly raised, and the children from Carcoola were all smiles, soaking in the experience. The celebration continued



with a
Yarn
and
Brunch
at the
RSL
Hall.

Tumba left
and Tumut
above.

COUNCILLOR COLUMN – DEPUTY MAYOR TRINA THOMSON

It's often said Local Government is the closest level of government to people and therefore, best situated to deliver services and infrastructure.

There is no doubt LG is best suited to understand its community's needs and wants but State and Federal funding to rural, remote and regional centres does not reflect the unique circumstances of each community, or the inability to generate additional income without impacting residents and ratepayers.

Having attended the National Regional Forum, General Assembly and Australian Council of Local Government in Canberra recently, the important aspects of 'walkability' and 'liveability' for communities was stressed.

Ironically, virtually every LGA outside metro areas highlighted inadequate funds to deliver infrastructure and services such as footpaths, playgrounds, libraries, pools and sports facilities as well as childcare, aged care and medical services where such services are not commercially viable.

I was honoured to give evidence at the 'Inquiry into the ability of local government to fund infrastructure and services'. Along with Interim GM Steven Pinnuck, many of the issues faced by Snowy Valleys Council and most rural, remote and regional councils were highlighted.

As councillors, the toughest decisions are the ones you know are right but also realise will be unpopular.

A recent workshop highlighted the true financial circumstances for Snowy Valleys Council. No easy fix for the coming years to address budget shortfalls.

There is no greater privilege than being elected to council, nor is there a greater challenge in making decisions to provide equitable outcomes for over 14,600 people across 9,000sq kms.

I urge all community members to engage with every opportunity provided to participate in council planning, information sessions and committees.

Nine councillors don't have all the answers, knowledge or ideas but they are the ones who vote.

The upcoming LG elections can be your opportunity to leave the sideline and have a seat at the table.

BECOME A COUNCILLOR

If you are passionate about your local community and thinking about becoming a councillor check out the Office of Local Government's interactive online training tool to learn about what it takes.

Nominations open on 5 August



RICHMOND PARK SITE INVESTIGATED FOR MULTIPURPOSE CENTRE

Council has approved a new location at Richmond Park, Tumut for investigation as the preferred location for the Multipurpose Centre building.

The project has seen significant design development over the past 3 years since Government funding was announced in 2021.

Initial planning and design works have been undertaken on two proposed sites, initially on Snowy Mountains Highway at the top of the Bull Paddock, and more recently at Lockeridge Park opposite the Tumut Hospital.

Following feasibility and Geotech investigations both sites have been deemed unsuitable within budget constraints and council staff are now investigating the Richmond Park location.

If Geotech investigations and the updated cost estimate is favourable work will then commence on the creation of a detailed concept design for the preparation of a Development Application.

During the Development Application process, interested stakeholders and community members will have the opportunity to provide feedback.



STREET FESTIVAL COMING TO TUMUT

Elm Drive in Tumut is set to Bloom this October with a free on-street festival.

Sponsored by the NSW Govt, Council is teaming up with Business Snowy

Valleys to host a vibrant on-street festival complete with live performances, cultural activities, creative installations, interactive light features, and delicious food and drink.

The event named Bloom, will be held on Saturday the 12 of October 2024 and will involve the temporary partial closure of Elm Drive with the event flowing into Rotary Pioneer Park.

Planning is already underway to create a unique and thought-provoking event and more information will be shared in the coming weeks, including how local businesses and community groups can get involved.



CHANGES TO PET OWNERSHIP

Pet owners across the Snowy Valleys must now comply with new rules on microchipping, registration, and desexing of their dogs and cats.

The updates to regulations came into effect across NSW in July and are aimed at improving pet management and making it quicker and easier to reunite lost animals with their owners.

Key changes to the regulations include:

- **Microchipping:** All cats and dogs in NSW must be microchipped by 12 weeks of age or when sold or given away – whichever comes first.
- **Registration:** Pet owners are required to register their animals on the NSW Pet Registry by 12 weeks of age, or if their new pet is less than 12 weeks old, when they first take ownership.
- **Additional Fees for Non-Desexed Animals:** Dog owners must pay an extra charge if their pet is not desexed before six months of age. For cats, an annual permit fee applies if the animal is not desexed by four months old. Cats born before 22 July 2020 are exempt from this requirement.



FUNDING FOR NEW FOOTPATHS

As part of the NSW Government's Get NSW Active program SVC has been successful in being awarded:

- \$51,000 to finalise the existing footpath leading to the Brungle Primary School
- \$56,000 for construction of a footpath at the front of the Adelong Primary School

The construction of these footpaths will provide students who currently must walk or ride their bikes on the road or across dirt and grass, an easy, safe, and convenient way to get to school.



First section of the Brungle School footpath – constructed in 2021