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SVC AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS

Congratulations to our 2025 Australia Day Award recipients:

Citizen of the Year – Hannah Speers, Adelong for her outstanding leadership and dedication to the Adelong community, from successfully steering the Adelong Community Enterprises to advocating for vital services and championing initiatives that positively impact the region.

Young Citizen of the Year – Hannah Rankin, Tumbarumba for her outstanding achievements in sports, academics, and community service, and for proudly representing Tumbarumba at state-level competitions while inspiring others with her dedication and determination.

Environmental Citizen of the Year – Bindi Vanzella, Batlow for her unwavering dedication to environmental sustainability and recovery in Batlow, leading vital conservation efforts, restoring local ecosystems, and promoting sustainable farming practices that benefit both the community and biodiversity.

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Hannah, Hannah and Bindi with
Councillors and Dr Joe McGirr MP

COUNCILLOR COLUMN – MAYOR JULIA HAM

The Australia Day celebrations highlighted the depth of the community spirit in the Snowy Valleys region. This was reflected in the high calibre of the awardees and nominees. The citations read out for all nominations reflecting just how much volunteers do in our community.

The community organisations shone, putting their own style on celebrations. Who knew for the past 40 years Batlow RFS cooked damper over an open fire and served it up with homemade jam? Tumut Montreal Theatre has an excellent air conditioner, Tumbarumba has its own band (the JNR Legends), Talbingo fundraised for an outdoor Camp Kitchen named after Dawn Byatt, and Adelong is now home to two renowned ABC Presenters.

The celebrations were strongly supported by the Australia Day Ambassador Bob Turner. Bob was the youngest basketball coach to win an NBL championship in the USA. Bob then came to Australia to run a coaching business. He became a citizen 15 years ago. Bob and his wife Alison gave generously of their time and energy on the weekend. Even coaching the local Tumut basketball players. Bob was supported by our local member Dr Joe McGirr who attended several celebrations and gave a heartwarming speech about the wonderful area in which we live.

All the grounds and parks looked well-groomed and cared for. Thank you to all the Council staff who participated in many areas to make Australia Day so memorable.

I was also delighted to see Tumut's Jill Ludford awarded the National Public Service Medal for her work in administration at Murrumbidgee Health. A well-deserved honour for her vision and passion to improve health facilities across regional areas.

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COUNCILLOR COLUMN – MAYOR JULIA HAM Cont...

The new year starts in earnest with Council staff working hard to complete and deliver the Tumut Aerodrome upgrade, Tumut evac/basketball stadium, fire protection projects across the region, and plans for the 10 kms of Brindabella Rd works to start.



The goal of a constitutional referendum to decide if Snowy Valleys Council should remain as one or should return to its former shires takes one step closer. The Boundaries Commission has received the report, and Council will make an in-person representation in February. If they decide to support the prospect of a demerger the Minister will be able to call for a referendum. Thank you to all who attended the public meetings to discuss the future financial plans and the staff who facilitated.

Over the past 18 months SVC has had the advice, wisdom and long-term experience from Steven Pinnuck as our General Manager. Steven has a calm and reasonable approach to Local Government which has helped lead SVC into a period of composure and productiveness. He will be very missed. I am very grateful I had the privilege to work with him and I join with the whole of SVC to wish him all the best in his retirement.

DE-AMALGAMATION PRESENTATION

Thanks to everyone who came along to our Town Hall Meetings during January to learn more about the De-amalgamation Implementation Plan (DPI) and the Financial Sustainability Plan (FSP).

We have placed the slides presented at the town hall meetings on our website for those who were not able to attend or those who want a refresher.

The public exhibition of the Plans ends on 31 January so if you were thinking about making a submission there is still time. www.svc.nsw.gov.au/de-amalgamation

ENGAGEMENT SURVEY WINNERS

Congratulations to the winners of our Engagement Survey, Joseph, Maisie and Tess.

They participated in our December engagement survey and were chosen at random to win one of three \$100 gift cards.

The valuable insights they and others shared through the survey will help council better understand the needs and values of our community.

Thanks to all who participated.

SVC AUSTRALIA AWARDS Cont...

Sportsperson of the Year – Dylan Weir, Brungle/Tumut for his outstanding achievements in bull riding and his dedication to inspiring the next generation of riders while representing Brungle/Tumut with skill and sportsmanship.

Service to the Community – Cara Ironside, Batlow for her outstanding dedication and leadership in Batlow, tirelessly supporting local organisations, co-founding Do It For Batlow, and spearheading numerous community initiatives that have greatly enriched the town's social, environmental, and economic well-being.

Congratulations also to our Achievement Award recipients:

Citizen Achievement Awards:

- Mathew Pearce, Adelong
- John Scott, Talbingo

Young Citizen Achievement Award:

- Leo Peel, Tumbarumba

Sports Achievement Award:

- Michael Schwab, Tumbarumba
- Franklin School Girls Basketball Team, Tumut
- Tumut Public Boys Basketball Team, Tumut

Environmental Achievement Awards

- Tumut FOGO Team – Joanne Jackson, Angela Ward and Jan Russell
- Tumut Landcare Nursery Representatives

Service to Community Achievement Awards:

- William O'Connell, Adelong
- Erin Nurthen, Tumbarumba



Awardees with Dr Joe McGirr, Mayor Julia Ham, Councillors and Aust Day Ambassador Bob Tuner. Missing Dylan Weir and Cara Ironside who were apologies