

June 2011

# snowyhydro

## NEWS

**Snowy Hydro announces \$2.5million sponsorship of Snowy Hydro SouthCare**



### **Also in this edition:**

**Winter Driving Hazards...**

*How to be safe on our roads*

**Jindabyne Dam New Spillway**

**Year 12 students complete**

*Snowy Hydro Young Driver Training*

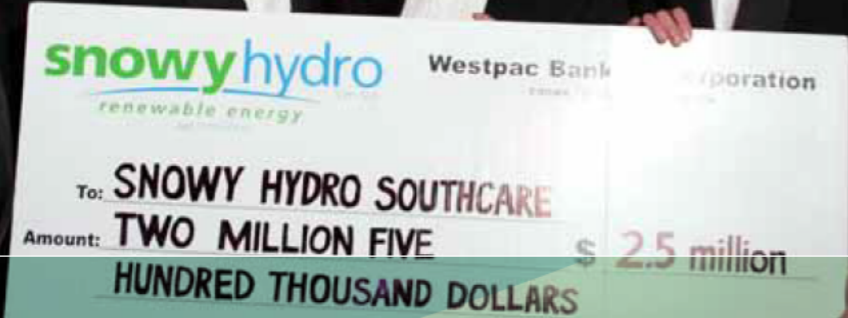
**Snowy Hydro supports**

*2011 Tumut Aboriginal cultural gathering*



ISSUE 13

L-R: MP for Monaro, John Barilaro, CEO Terry Charlton, Chairman of Snowy Hydro SouthCare, David Marshall and ACT Minister for Emergency Services, Simon Corbell, at the announcement of the \$2.5m sponsorship.



Snowy Hydro SouthCare on mission.

## \$2.5 million, 5 year sponsorship of Snowy Hydro SouthCare Helicopter

**Terry Charlton**  
CEO & Managing Director

At the Snowy Hydro SouthCare Gala Ball held at the National Convention Centre recently, I announced a continuation of our sponsorship for another five years with our local aero-medical rescue service worth \$2.5 million. This will extend our commitment to 2016.



There could be no better way to demonstrate our deep commitment to the region and our local communities right across the Snowy Mountains, South East NSW and the ACT than to continue our significant financial support of the region's rescue helicopter service.

We have been a major sponsor of the Snowy Hydro SouthCare Rescue Helicopter for 11 years, committing now over \$7million to the service, which has performed over 4,200 missions.

There could be no greater demonstration of the benefit of having a growing, successful Snowy Hydro in the local community than to have the capacity to provide significant future funding to the service.

Chairman of Snowy Hydro SouthCare, Mr David Marshall extended his thanks to all at Snowy Hydro Limited and responded to this announcement by saying "This \$2.5 million contract is an overwhelming example of Snowy Hydro's commitment to the region and all local communities. We are proud to continue our partnership with Snowy Hydro Limited".

I am pleased and very proud to say that Snowy Hydro is now the second longest serving current sponsor of any rescue helicopter service in Australia and only behind

Westpac. Snowy Hydro has supported the Snowy Hydro SouthCare Rescue Helicopter longer than Telstra has supported ChildFlight with NRMA recently ending their association with Careflight.

Our local State MP, Mr John Barilaro, and ACT Minister for Emergency Services, Simon Corbell, also attended the announcement thanking our company for this extended commitment and also paying special tribute to the skilled pilots, doctors, paramedics and ground crew who undertake and support the life saving missions.

While our new sponsorship agreement is a positive outcome for the Snowy Hydro SouthCare Rescue Helicopter, more funds are always needed and I ask the community to continue your ongoing support. Together we can ensure we have a world class rescue service in our region that has already saved thousands of lives to date. By maintaining our support and working together we can keep Snowy Hydro SouthCare in the air and saving lives.



(L-R) Back Row: Charlie, Paddy, Ethan, Blaze, Kirra and Maddison. Front Row: Mac, Emily, Ruby and Jasmin all enjoying their icecreams.

### Jindabyne Central Students raise money for Snowy Hydro SouthCare

Students from Jindabyne Central School recently held an Icecream Fundraiser to support the Snowy Hydro SouthCare Rescue Helicopter. Students in class 5/6H coordinated the event with Year 5 students responsible for promotion of the fundraiser and Year 6 serving the ice-creams.

"Snowy Hydro is a proud supporter of many of Jindabyne Central School's educational programs and we are pleased to assist and promote their involvement in community service," said Assistant Principal, Rob Harris.

A total of \$160 was raised on the day and Snowy Hydro thanks the Jindabyne Central School for helping raise much needed support for the rescue service.

# Snowy Hydro 2011 Young Driver Training Program

**Tracy Crowe**  
Education Program & Community Liaison Coordinator

All year 12 students from high schools in Cooma, Jindabyne, Tumut, Tumbarumba and Corryong are currently participating in the 2011 Snowy Hydro Young Driver Training Program.



The Program is run in partnership with local high schools and this year more than 280 year 12 students will participate.

The program focuses on the unique road conditions of the Snowy Mountains and includes both

theory and practical sessions designed to improve the attitude and driving behaviours of young people in our local community.

The practical sessions are held with a specially designed 'skid car'. The skid car is a Subaru Forrester with a custom designed skid frame which allows students, under direction and control of expert driver trainer, David Knowles from the Australian Driving Institute, to experience what causes a car to lose control in a simulated skid situation. This improves the level of awareness of young drivers and demonstrates how easy it is to lose control in certain conditions.

We are all too familiar with disturbing news headlines about young people killed or injured in car accidents. If our program saves a life or prevents one crash, then it is money well spent. Our local high schools should be congratulated for partnering with us and in sharing our vision of improving road safety through driver education for students.

Principal of Snowy Mountains Grammar, Mr Andrew Rostron said "Once again this year, the students from Year 12 at Snowy Mountains Grammar School were involved in the Snowy Hydro Young Driver Training Program. I cannot speak highly enough of the benefits of this program. My greatest fear for our senior students is when they get behind the wheel of their cars as

young drivers, confident in their ability to be able to cope with all challenges, once they have passed their test. Sadly, the accident rate amongst young drivers is unrepresentatively high and this program addresses the reasons for this and gives the students a greater awareness, both in theory and in practice, of what may lie ahead of them. It is a very generous commitment by Snowy Hydro to the youth of our community and I thank them most sincerely for giving every young driver the opportunity to learn such skills, ahead of the time that they may need them on the road."

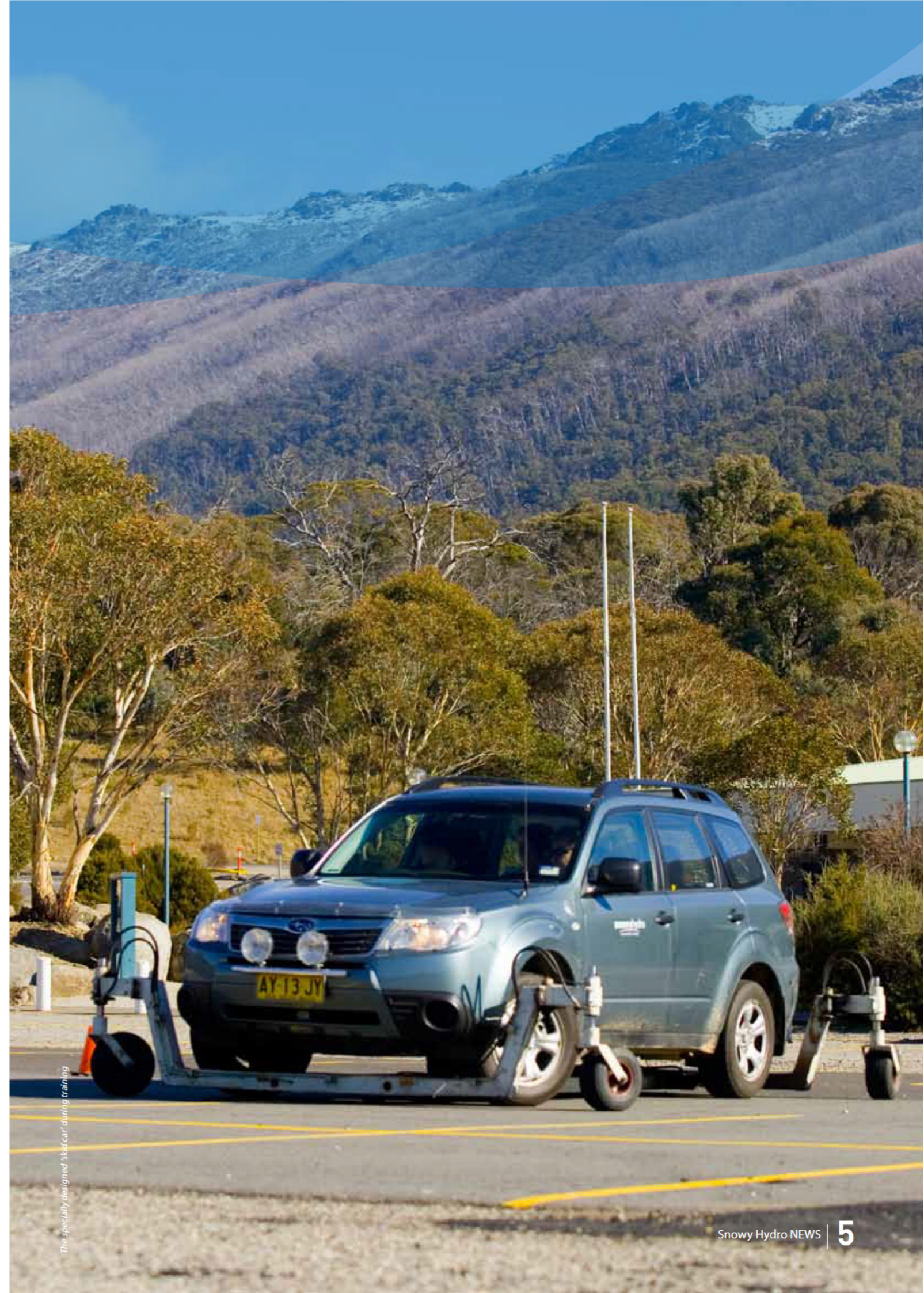
Principal of Jindabyne Central School, Mr Garry Atkinson said "the program is invaluable for our young drivers as it not only gives them some practical driving skills but more importantly it really does change their attitude to driving and how they approach getting behind that wheel. This course should be mandatory for every beginning driver".

Principal of Tumbarumba High School, Mr David Crelley said "The day was most beneficial. The experiences the students were exposed to will allow them to improve their driving and hazard reduction techniques. I would like to take the opportunity to thank Snowy Hydro for funding the program and providing our students with this opportunity".

The success of the Young Driver Training Program is a direct result of Snowy Hydro's partnership with local schools and this high quality, professionally run program provides a tremendous outcome not only for participants and their families but also for our entire community.



Above: Students from Jindabyne Central School, Sam Clements, Cody Norling, Jay Truscott, Patrick Killin, Kieren Hovasapian.



The specially designed 'skid car' during training



The Aboriginal Community Gathering at Tumut Pond Dam.



Murray 1 Power Station and Visitors Centre

## Snowy Hydro supports 2011 Tumut Aboriginal cultural gathering

**David Hogan**  
Manager Public Relations & Community Affairs



Snowy Hydro along with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) recently hosted an Aboriginal community gathering in Tumut and Talbingo which saw Aboriginal communities from Lake Mungo, Canberra, the North Coast and the South Coast of NSW gain an insight into local sights, history and Aboriginal culture.

The gathering was held to build a strong bond and increased understanding between each of the Aboriginal communities that attended and created a desire in those involved to continue to work together to build future community partnerships. It was also the first gathering of this kind in this region that focused on the very popular local Aboriginal Discovery programs and Indigenous tourism.

By showcasing the beauty of the Snowy Mountains Region and highlighting how indigenous tourism can open up new career opportunities for Aboriginal people, this gathering has demonstrated the opportunities available for Aboriginal people to work more closely with government and private sector organisations to achieve greater ownership and development of careers in the tourism industry and cultural education sector.

A highlight of the visit for the group was to Australia's highest town, Cabramurra and also to Tumut Pond Dam to explain the operations of the Snowy Scheme and Snowy Hydro. The visit culminated in a joint NPWS/ Snowy Hydro dinner that evening in Talbingo where the experiences of the day were shared.

Snowy Hydro was proud to be able to assist and work in partnership with the NPWS at Tumut on this positive initiative and congratulate the NPWS organising team of Mark Lees, Shane Herrington, Talea Bulger and Mary Mudford for putting together a very rewarding, positive and constructive experience for all who were involved.



Above Uncle Vince Bulger – Smoking ceremony at Talbingo.

## Murray 1 Power Station Visitors Centre has been upgraded!

**Lesley Barlee**  
Murray 1 Visitors Centre

After 13 years and well over 150,000 visitors passing through our doors, the Murray 1 Visitors Centre located on the Alpine Way near Khancoban has been upgraded.



The Murray 1 Power Station Visitors Centre was built back in 1997. The upgrade has delivered enhanced visitor services through an improved front service area, new displays and upgraded facilities including the installation of a theatrette.

Displays at the centre now include more modern presentation of information that reflects our proud past and also Snowy Hydro today. Its important visitors can see first hand the evolving nature of our business with inclusions such as our gas plants and Red Energy and Scheme Modernisation, after all the centre was built back when the National Electricity Market just started and much has changed since then.

The improved centre also has better education and group facilities as well as a modern presentation facility.

While works were underway the Murray 1 Visitors Centre building was closed but we were still able to provide information and services to the visiting public with a temporary facility that was established on the site.

A Community Open Day and BBQ is now being planned to mark the opening of what is now a significantly improved visitor centre for the public.

Stay tuned for details and date of the Open Day on our website and local radio and press.



The improvements to the centre include more modern displays, a new front service area and a theatrette to better accommodate education and group bookings.



# Did you know that Snowy Hydro has no involvement in water allocations of downstream users?

**Andrew Nolan**  
Manager, Water



Snowy Scheme releases and other River Murray and Murrumbidgee River catchment inflows are re-regulated by the Hume Dam on the River Murray and Blowering Dam on the Tumut River – neither of which are owned or controlled by Snowy Hydro.

Snowy Hydro has no influence over or involvement in the allocation or delivery of water to downstream water users.

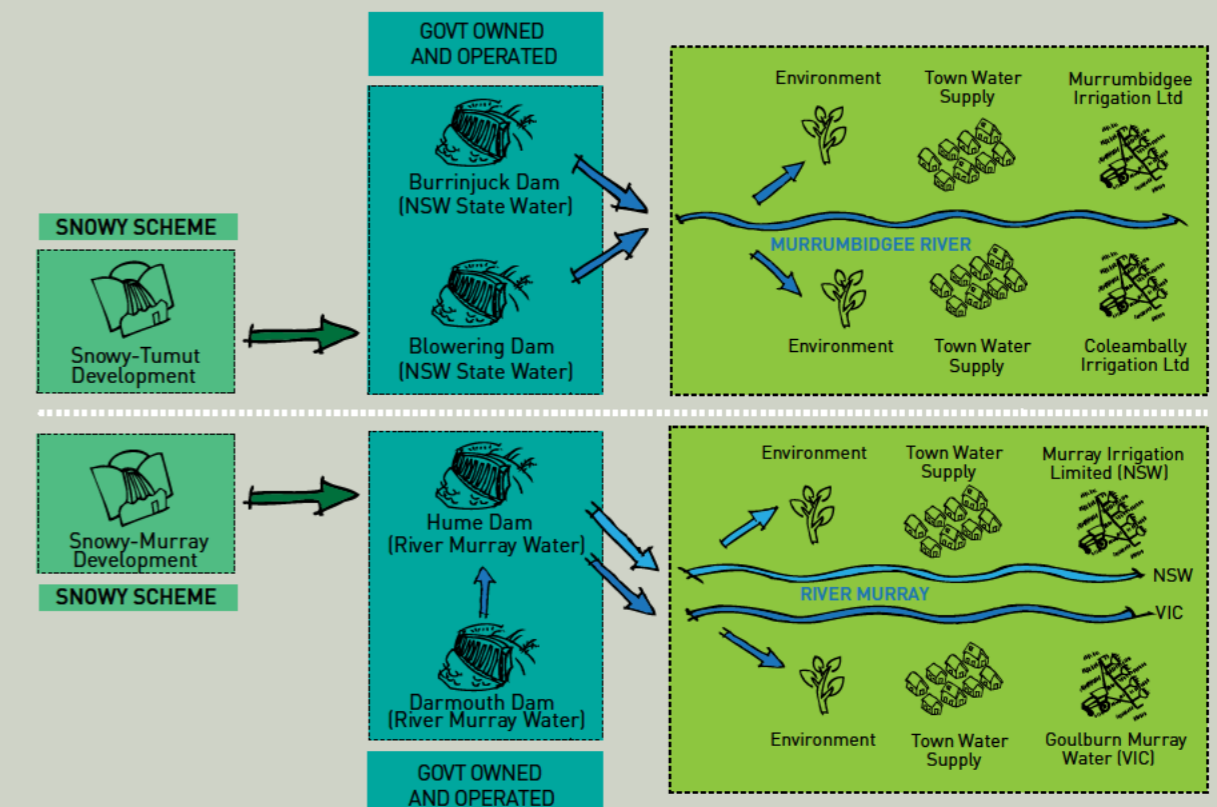
Water releases for extractive and environmental uses along the upper River Murray are managed by the Murray Darling Basin Authority, principally through releases from Dartmouth and Hume Dams (the Scheme does not make releases into Dartmouth Dam).

Water releases for extractive and environmental uses along the Murrumbidgee River are managed by the NSW State Water Corporation, principally through releases from Blowering and Burrinjuck Dams (again, Snowy Hydro does not make releases into nor has any involvement or control over Burrinjuck Dam).

If you would like to pick up a copy of our Water Operations Report you can do so from any of our visitor's centres, download it from our website at [snowyhydro.com.au](http://snowyhydro.com.au) or email us at [communityfeedback@snowyhydro.com.au](mailto:communityfeedback@snowyhydro.com.au)

*The 2010-11 Water Operations Report is currently in production. If you would like to receive a copy once published email us at [communityfeedback@snowyhydro.com.au](mailto:communityfeedback@snowyhydro.com.au) to go on our mailing list.*

## DOWNSTREAM FROM THE SNOWY SCHEME





# Jindabyne Dam New Spillway Project Update

**Michael Thornton**  
Project Manager

Works commenced on the new spillway project in March of this year. Our contractors, MacMahon Contractors Pty Ltd reached a major milestone at the end of May with the first major concrete pour successfully completed.



This will be the first of more than 50 concrete pours over the coming months.

Snowy Hydro is committed to supporting local contractors wherever possible and this project is no different. Over 10,000 tonnes of concrete is being sourced from

the Jindabyne Plant at Crawford Street as well as other services such as accommodation and service provisions for the contractors. A significant proportion of the workforce working on the project are sourced from local contractors.

With full safety and environmental protections established right from the start the project is progressing well, is on time and on budget. The total cost of the project will be \$10million and completion is still expected to be in early September of this year.

No doubt many in the community will be noticing the large crane that has been established on site. The crane is a Jaso J300 Tower Crane valued at over a \$1million. The crane has a maximum radius of 70m and a maximum free standing height of 67m and is able to lift up to 12 tonne.

There has been no traffic delays on Kosciuszko Road and only an increase in heavy vehicle movements in the area as anticipated.

If you have any questions relating to the project you can call the Jindabyne Dam Spillway Project Community Feedback line on 6453 2461 or go to our website [www.snowyhydro.com.au](http://www.snowyhydro.com.au) for further information.

The tower crane at Jindabyne Dam Site.

# Winter Driving Hazards - how to be safe on our roads

**Greg Hobbs**  
Manager, Engineering - Gas Assets

While the mountains may look stunning in winter, the cold conditions can be dangerous on our roads.



Each year winter brings a change to the hazards on many roads in our area. Snow and ice conditions can significantly increase driving risk if not managed effectively. This applies not only to areas in the mountains but anywhere the temperature drops below freezing. The cornering ability and stopping distance of a vehicle are particularly affected when conditions are wet, icy or snowy.

At Snowy Hydro we spend a great deal of time focusing on working safely and this includes driving skills and

training, all specifically adapted to cater for our local conditions.

We have found our snow and ice driver training to be critical in limiting road accidents with our staff in winter. We would like to share with the local community some of the key lessons we have learned to drive safely in winter on our local roads, so we can help you be safe too.

For the driver of a vehicle to effectively manage the many additional hazards that snow and ice conditions brings, the driver needs to know what to look for so hazards can be identified and motorists can modify their driving to suit the conditions.

For example, the stopping distance on wet ice on a flat road can be up to 10 times greater when compared to driving on dry asphalt. A small side or downhill slope on the same road significantly increases the effect.

The table below shows some calculated relative stopping distances to illustrate the effects of snow and ice. Looking at the table you can clearly see how much speed can affect stopping distances in wet and icy conditions.

A stopping distance of 315m is usually associated with racing cars travelling at speeds in excess of 200km per hour. The same stopping distance occurs when travelling at 80km per hour on wet ice. The effect that wet and icy conditions have on our roads can be dangerous if you don't drive to suit the conditions.

There are many other hazards but the table below shows that even when travelling at relatively slow speeds, a vehicle can slide very long distances before stopping. This is something we all should consider when getting behind the wheel in the Snowy Mountains.

| Speed (kph) | ZERO SLOPE STOPPING DISTANCE (m) |             |           |           |            |            |
|-------------|----------------------------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|
|             | Dry Asphalt                      | Wet Asphalt | Dry Snow  | Wet Snow  | Dry Ice    | Wet Ice    |
| <b>245</b>  | <b>315</b>                       | 429         | 715       | 525       | 1475       | 2561       |
| 180         | 170                              | 232         | 386       | 283       | 796        | 1593       |
| 160         | 134                              | 183         | 305       | 224       | 629        | 1258       |
| 140         | 103                              | 140         | 234       | 171       | 482        | 964        |
| 120         | 76                               | 103         | 172       | 126       | 354        | 708        |
| 100         | 52                               | 72          | 119       | 87        | 246        | 492        |
| <b>80</b>   | <b>34</b>                        | <b>46</b>   | <b>76</b> | <b>56</b> | <b>157</b> | <b>315</b> |
| 60          | 19                               | 26          | 43        | 31        | 88         | 177        |
| 40          | 8                                | 11          | 19        | 14        | 39         | 79         |
| 20          | 2                                | 3           | 5         | 3         | 10         | 20         |

Note: The above values neglect reaction time and aerodynamic effects. The values can also vary significantly due to variations in friction measurements. Use for illustration purposes only.

So what are some of the important things to keep an eye out for when driving in snow and ice conditions?

### Reduce the need to travel in snow & ice conditions

- Can what you need to do be achieved in another way (e.g. by telephone, etc) or wait until the conditions improve?

### Prepare your vehicle and yourself

- Your vehicle should be in good condition
- Check (fuel, oil, water (does it have anti freeze), tyre pressure, road conditions, etc)
- Carry chains where needed and know how to fit them
- Take warm clothing and reliable form of communication (i.e. mobile) in case you become stranded

### Leave enough travel time

- The trip may take considerably longer than expected due to the conditions, allow enough time so that you are not tempted to drive too fast

### Reduce your speed

- A safe speed is generally much slower than you think
- Even a small reduction in speed can reduce stopping distance (See the Table above)
- A further reduction in speed is generally needed when cornering and going down hill

### Don't be complacent

- Conditions can and will change, hazards can be different on the same road each time you travel it

### Drive smoothly to help avoid the vehicle sliding

- Incorrect braking can lock the wheels (particularly on vehicles without ABS)
- Avoid being in too low a gear as this can start a slide
- Accelerate gently
- Avoid sharp steering wheel movements
- Corners, particularly downhill ones, can add an increased risk of sliding

### Observe conditions and modify driving to suit

- Look for the increased hazards
- Anticipate and react much earlier
- Be aware of the increased hazards of a slight slope
- Start to slow down much earlier than normal

### The stopping distance of a vehicle is generally the same for all vehicles

- All Wheel Drive and 4WD vehicles don't stop in any less distance than a 2WD vehicle.

### Take responsibility for your driving

- If you have an accident then it is not the fault of the conditions but how you managed them

Living in the Snowy Mountains region, these hazards and consequences must not be underestimated. Let's do what we can to ensure we act and drive safely to protect ourselves and others by observing hazards, assessing correctly and modifying our driving to suit the conditions.

## Some hazards to look out for when driving in the Snowy Mountains

**Crest** - stopping distance is increased in snow and ice conditions so you need to anticipate earlier what might be ahead

**Slope** - a small slope, either side or downhill, will increase the chances of sliding

**Different colour/texture/shine** on the road can indicate areas of ice, water or wet snow.

**Fallen trees** - the weight of snow can often cause trees to fall onto the road

**Falling snow** can fall unexpectedly on to a vehicle from overhanging trees

**Shade** - areas in shade can take longer to thaw than other areas so they can stay icy longer.

**Snow on the side of the road** can narrow the useable road and be a hazard if driven into.



## Snowy Hydro cleans up for Clean Up Australia Day

**Campbell Young**  
Environment Team, Cooma

Snowy Hydro participated in the Clean Up Australia Day as a Gold Business Supporter. Clean-ups were done across the Snowy Mountains region this year in the Cooma, Khancoban and Talbingo areas.



In Cooma a group of dedicated Snowy Hydro employees took on the task of cleaning up around the Nannygoat Hill Reserve picking up a huge amount of discarded waste.

Thankfully, the majority of the rubbish was recyclable.

The next site was at Khancoban where one team of volunteers cleaned around the shopping centre and another clean up was conducted from the Alpine Way/M2 Power Station road turnoff all the way up to the Khancoban boat ramp. The volunteers scoured the roadsides and collected mostly cans and bottles.

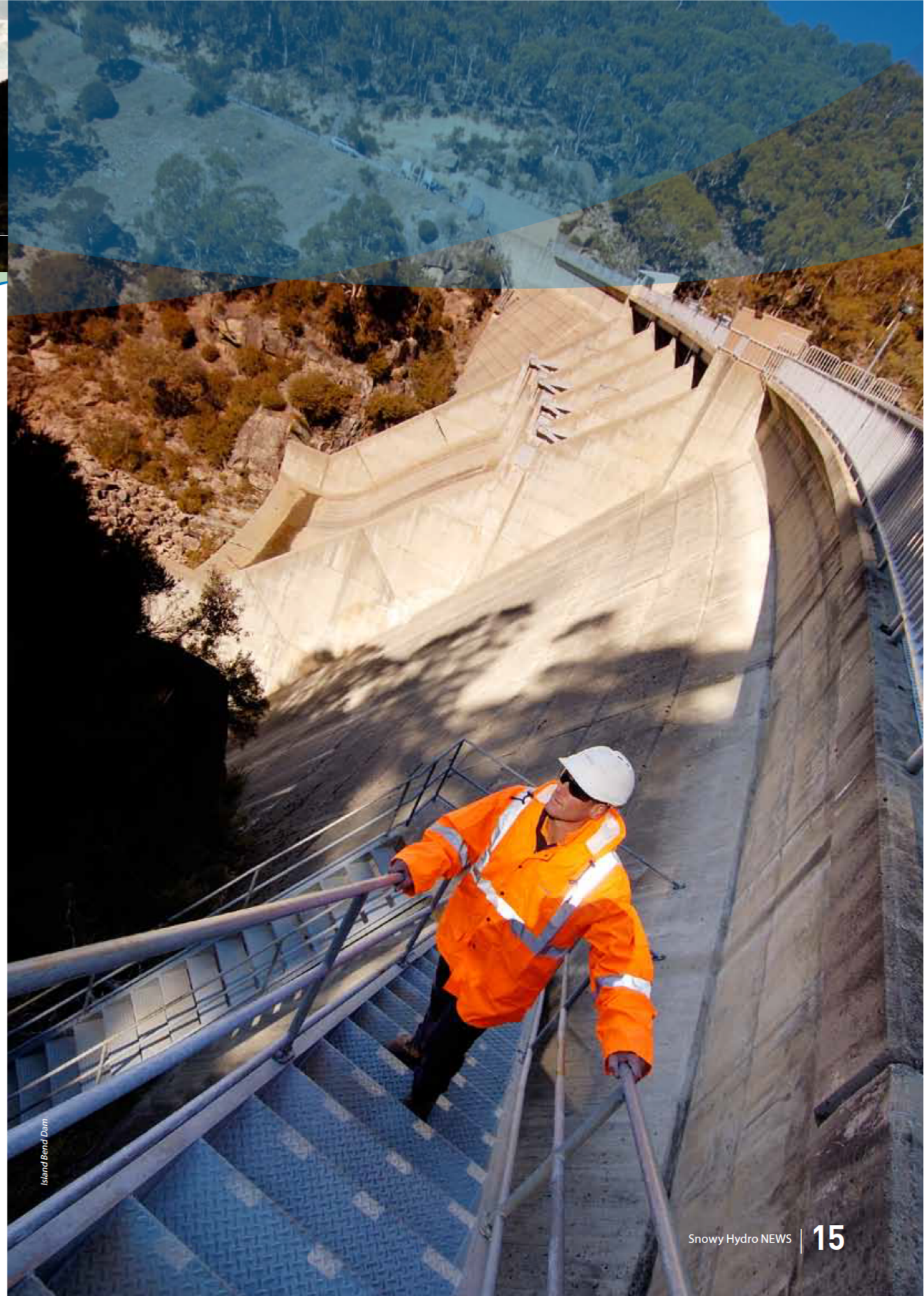
Overall, the Snowy Hydro Clean Up Day was a resounding success and further cemented Snowy Hydro's commitment to the environment and the local communities which we live and work in.



Above: Snowy Hydro volunteers cleaning up at Cooma's Nannygoat Hill.



Above: Snowy Hydro volunteers cleaning up on the roadside near Khancoban.





# What's on in the region...

In future editions of Snowy Hydro NEWS we will be including a calendar of local events to help outline upcoming community initiatives and events.

If you have an initiative or event that you would like included, email us a short outline of what is happening and the date to [communityfeedback@snowyhydro.com.au](mailto:communityfeedback@snowyhydro.com.au)

## June

| DATE       |  |
|------------|--|
| 4 & 5 June | Out & About in Platypus Country, Bombala Region Activities & Events, Bombala |
| 10-13 June | Perisher Snowy Mountains of Music Festival, Perisher                         |
| 11-13 June | Queen's Birthday Long Weekend  |
| 11-13 June | Newly renovated Murray 1 Visitors Centre re-opens, Alpine Way Khancoban      |
| 19 June    | High Country Markets, Centennial Park, Cooma                                 |

## July

| DATE       |  |
|------------|--|
| 9 July     | Tumut Rotary Markets, Wynyard St Tumut                                       |
| 17 July    | High Country Markets, Centennial Park, Cooma                                 |
| 18-21 July | Snowy Hydro Young Driver Training - Yr 12, Tumut High School                 |
| 29 July    | Snowy Hydro Young Driver Training - Yr 12 Monaro High School commences       |
| 30 July    | Christmas in July, Fairways Restaurant Khancoban Country Club, Ph: 6076 9468 |

## August

| DATE         |   |
|--------------|---|
| 6 & 7 August | Upper Murray Challenge Course Familiarisation, Khancoban & Tumbarumba |
| 13 August    | Tumut Rotary Markets, Wynyard St Tumut                                |
| 21 August    | High Country Markets, Centennial Park, Cooma                          |
| 27 August    | Tumut Valley Fly-In, Tumut Airport                                    |

## September

| DATE         |  |
|--------------|--|
| 6 September  | One Hit Wonder, Big Air Event, Thredbo               |
| 10 September | Tumut Rotary Markets, Wynyard St Tumut               |
| 18 September | High Country Markets, Centennial Park, Cooma         |
| 24 September | Upper Murray Challenge, Khancoban & Tumbarumba Shire |

**Remember - if you would like your community event advertised for free in "What's on in the region" email the details to: [communityfeedback@snowyhydro.com.au](mailto:communityfeedback@snowyhydro.com.au)**