



ANNUAL REPORT

2012-2013



Southern Midlands Council

Our Vision

The following vision for the Southern Midlands municipal area was developed by Councillors on the basis of the information and advice provided at community meetings.

- A community spirit based on friendliness, co-operation and self help;
- An environment which encourages local creativity, enterprise and self help;
- A diversified local economy creating employment opportunities through sustainable agriculture, heritage tourism, forestry, and viable historic towns/service centres;
- Development based on the proper management of local resources and the physical environment;
- A range and standard of services within the Southern Midlands which meet local needs and are affordable and efficient.

Our Mission

The Mission for the corporation of Council identifies the roles and purpose of the Council. The mission was developed by Councillors and senior staff. The Council in partnership with the community will:

- Work for the benefit of the community;
- Be forward looking and provide leadership;
- Operate as a team of Councillors and staff focused upon performance;
- Be financially responsible.

Our Guiding Principles

The following principles or philosophies represent the beliefs and values which will guide the culture of the organisation and underpin its work towards achieving the vision and mission. Council and staff will:

- Consult and listen to our customers and employees by maintaining open communication;
- Treat people with respect and courtesy;
- Give advice to the best of our professional ability;
- Be sensitive to the needs of residents;
- Respond promptly to customers concerns and requests;
- Be fair, equitable and consistent in decisions and conduct;
- Fully utilise the expertise and resources available to Council within the organisation and the community;
- Develop the full potential of Councillors and staff;
- Operate in accordance with the "Code of Conduct" adopted by Council.

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2012-2013 Annual Report

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Introduction

The Year in Review – Mayor Anthony E Bisdee OAM

The financial year 2012-13 has been a year of further consolidation and progress for the Southern Midlands Council.

Your Council has again made progress with renewal of infrastructure assets which includes road resealing, road reconstruction, re-gravelling of rural roads and bridge replacements. These Council infrastructure upgrades and replacements, combined with the progression of the Midlands Irrigation Scheme, has made 2012-13 a year of significant improvements for the Southern Midlands.

Major road resealing was undertaken on the Stonor Road along with reconstruction and sealing of the Green Valley Road, Clifton Vale Road, Ballyhooly Road, Inglewood Road and Stanley Street, Oatlands. Road widening was undertaken on the Rhyndaston Road to improve sight distance and safety improvements were implemented on Eldon Road and Green Valley Road by way of installation of guard rails.

The largest bridge ever built by Council was constructed over the Jordan River at Broadmarsh, with a new concrete structure replacing the old wooden bridge. The total cost of this bridge was \$871,607. Other bridges were replaced at Chauncy Vale Road, Eldon Road and Shene Road.

A number of minor drainage works were completed including along Hall Lane at Bagdad.

Council facilitated recreational area improvements with the construction of new cricket practice nets at the Campania Recreational Ground, and sealing of the car park area beside the Campania Hall to alleviate summer dust problems and to assist the Campania Farmers Market with outdoor vendors.

Walkways were upgraded at Blackbrush Road and within the Kempton Village precinct.

Our heritage projects continued through 2012-13 at Oatlands with further work on the Gaolers' Residence and the relocation of the Goal entrance arch from High Street back to its original position at the Gaol. This major project is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2013.

Introduction

The Year in Review – Mayor Anthony E Bisdee OAM

I wish to compliment the Heritage Building Solutions team headed up by Robert Whitney with two apprentices Simon Bryant and Tom Whitney. The dismantling and rebuilding of the gaol arch requires great skill and knowledge of traditional stonemasonry and Robert and his two assistants are doing a very professional job.

During the past year considerable work has been completed on the new Southern Midlands Draft Interim Planning Scheme. All Councils in Tasmanian are formulating new planning schemes using the State's Planning Scheme Template as the foundation with the majority of development and use standards being developed collectively by each regional grouping of Councils. Aside from these state and regional components, a number of 'local' provisions will also be included in the new draft planning schemes. In Southern Midlands these relate mainly to our heritage provisions and Council has reviewed and upgraded the heritage precinct areas and provisions in Oatlands, Colebrook and Campania.

All the proposed changes in the proposed Draft Interim Planning Scheme were subject to an informal public consultation process for six weeks starting in June 2013 and will be subject to a statutory public consultation process following the Minister declaring the scheme to be an "Interim Planning Scheme, which is expected to be some time in 2014.

I wish to acknowledge the very professional work of Damian Mackey, Andrew Benson and David Cundall. All have contributed to our new draft planning scheme and when finally completed I am sure we will have a most comprehensive and forward planning document for the benefit of all property owners and residents of the Southern Midlands.

Your Council finances remain in a viable and positive position. While we strive to fund all the identified projects each year we sometimes do not have the financial resources to fund all worthy projects. Council is currently developing Asset Management Plan(s) and associated policies, which will assist in the implementation of Council's long-term financial management strategy.

The History Book – *The Southern Midlands a History* - was completed and launched by His Excellency Hon Peter Underwood Governor of Tasmania.

I wish to thank and congratulate Dr Alison Alexander and Andrew Benson for their endeavours in producing a fine history document. 750 copies were printed and it is completely sold out.

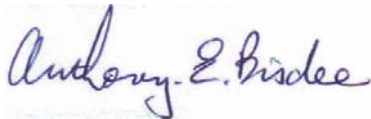
Introduction

The Year in Review – Mayor Anthony E Bisdee OAM

It is with great sadness that I wish to record the passing of the Warden of the former Oatlands Council – Mr Roy (Tem) Fish OAM. Warden Fish made an outstanding contribution to the Oatlands Council and earned the support and respect of all who knew him. He is sadly missed and we extend our condolences to his family.

In conclusion I wish to thank and acknowledge the work and commitment of all the staff of the Southern Midlands Council and the professional manner in which they have served the ratepayers and Councillors during the past year. I also wish to acknowledge the contribution made by the General Manager, Tim Kirkwood and Deputy General Manager Andrew Benson during the past year in the efficient management of the Council and staff.

On behalf of myself and wife Sue, fellow Councillors and all the staff of the Southern Midlands Council I extend to everyone the compliments of the season and wish you all a happy and safe Christmas and a prosperous New Year.



Clr Tony Bisdee OAM
Mayor

Overview

General Manager – Tim Kirkwood



This Annual Report is one of four major documents produced by Council each year to ensure public accountability. They are the:

- Strategic Plan;
- Annual Operational Plan;
- Annual Budget; and
- Annual Report and Financial Statement.

All of these documents are available to the public.

The *Local Government Act 1993* requires Council to provide a summary of the Operational Plan for the year including performance in respect of targets set for the period.

The following section of the Annual Report details the key achievements during the 2012-13 reporting period.

The format of the Annual Report is consistent with the respective Strategic Themes contained in Council's Strategic Plan:

- Infrastructure
- Growth
- Landscapes
- Lifestyle
- Community; and
- Organisation.

As mentioned in previous reports, whilst preparation of the Annual Report can be a time consuming exercise, it is highly gratifying to document the achievements that have been made during the reporting period.

I take this opportunity to highlight a few major initiatives, they being:

- Important advancement with the refinement of Council's long-term financial management plan and asset management plans. These are focussed on ensuring the long-term sustainability and financial viability of Council;

Overview

General Manager – Tim Kirkwood

- Establishment of an Audit and Risk Committee as a Special Committee of Council. This Committee includes an independent representative and its terms of reference, amongst others, are to enhance the credibility and objectivity of internal and external financial reporting; facilitate effective management of financial and other risks and the protection of Council assets; ensure compliance with laws and regulations as well as use of other best practice guidelines; and actively review the risk management framework, and associated procedures that are in place for management to effectively identify and manage the Southern Midlands Council's financial and business risks;
- Advanced planning for the relocation of the Oatlands Swimming Pool which has involved significant investment in design and engineering studies. A Development Application is to be submitted in the early part of the 2013-14 period;
- Substantial work undertaken in the policy development area, focussed on a range of issues and activities;
- The development of a new interim planning Scheme based on the model planning scheme provisions and containing a core of regionally consistent provisions; and
- Capital Works expenditure of approximately \$2.50 million, the majority of which being for renewal and replacement of existing assets, thus guaranteeing their ongoing service capability.

I wish to acknowledge and thank the Mayor and Councillors for their assistance and support during the year and in doing so, special mention and congratulations to Mayor Tony Bisdee OAM who was awarded the Local Government Association Life Membership (Long Service) Award. This Award recognised his period of service to local government (i.e. in excess of 40 years) and the level of contribution he has made to the betterment of local government and the community.

Overview

General Manager – Tim Kirkwood

To all staff, please accept my gratitude and thanks. Each member has made notable contributions towards achieving the aims and objectives detailed in the Strategic and Operational Plans, and are to be commended for their willingness to address any challenges as they arise.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tim Kirkwood', written in a cursive style.

Tim Kirkwood
General Manager



Council Committee Structure

THE COUNCILLORS	Council & Committee Membership
 <p>Mayor Tony E Bisdee OAM "Kelstock" Melton Mowbray Ph. 62 591 128</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Council ◆ Australia Day Awards (Chair) ◆ Enterprise Bargaining / Award Consultative Committee (Chair) ◆ Little Swanport Water Management Plan Committee (Proxy) ◆ Southern Midlands Audit Committee ◆ Southern Tasmania Council Association ◆ Southern Tasmania Water & Sewerage Corporation – Owners Representatives Committee (proxy) and Board Selection Committee. ◆ Tunnack Recreation Ground Management Committee (Chair)
 <p>Deputy Mayor Mark Jones OAM</p> <p>74 Esplanade Oatlands Ph. 62 540 074</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Council ◆ Australia Day Awards (Proxy) ◆ Enterprise Bargaining / Award Consultative Committee (Proxy) ◆ Lake Dulverton / Callington Park Management Committee (Proxy) ◆ Municipal Disaster Management Committee (Emergency Management Planning Committee) ◆ New Pool Project Steering Committee ◆ Oatlands Community Men's Shed ◆ Oatlands Recreation Ground Management Committee (Proxy) ◆ Southern Midlands Facilities & Recreation Committee ◆ Southern Tasmania Council Association (Proxy) ◆ Woodsdale Hall Management Committee

Council Committee Structure

 <p>Clr. A R (Tony) Bantick 19 East Bagdad Road Bagdad Ph. 62 686 277</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Council ◆ Chauncy Vale Management Committee (Proxy) ◆ Jordan Area Fire Management Committee ◆ Mangalore Recreation Management Committee (Chair)
 <p>Clr. Colin J. Beven Hall Street Campania Ph. 62 604 157</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Council ◆ Campania Halls Management Committee ◆ Campania Recreation Ground Management Committee (Chair) ◆ Colebrook Hall Committee (Chair) ◆ Parattah Railway Restoration Management Committee (Proxy) ◆ Southern Midlands Recreation Committee (Chair)
 <p>Clr Bob Campbell Inglewood Road, Andover Ph. 62 555 232</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Council ◆ Heritage Centre Management Committee (Proxy) ◆ Little Swanport Catchment Committee (Proxy) ◆ New Pool Project Steering Committee (Proxy) ◆ Oatlands Community Hall Management Committee (Proxy) ◆ Parattah Progress Association (Proxy) ◆ Southern Midlands Arts Strategy (Proxy) ◆ Woodsdale Hall Management Committee (Proxy)
 <p>Clr Marie J. Connors Louisa Street Kempton Ph. 62 593 095</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Council ◆ Community Advisory Committee (MMPHC) – (Proxy) ◆ Southern Midlands Heritage Project Steering Committee (Proxy) ◆ Southern Midlands Facilities & Recreation Committee ◆ Tunnack Recreation Ground Management Committee

Council Committee Structure

 <p>Clr Donald F. Fish "Ashgrove" 766 Inglewood Road Andover Ph. 62 555 157</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Council ◆ Dulverton Area Fire Management Committee ◆ Lake Dulverton / Callington Park Management Committee (Chair) ◆ Little Swanport Catchment Committee ◆ Little Swanport Water Management Plan Committee ◆ Municipal Disaster Management Committee (Emergency Management Planning Committee) (Proxy) ◆ Oatlands Community Hall Management Committee ◆ Oatlands Community Men's Shed (Proxy) ◆ Oatlands Recreation Ground Management Committee ◆ Parattah Progress Association ◆ Parattah Railway Restoration Management Committee ◆ Southern Midlands Facilities & Recreation Management Committee
 <p>Clr Alexander O. Green "Wattlebanks" 248 White Kangaroo Road Campania Ph. 62 604 153</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Council ◆ Campania Halls Management Committee (Proxy) ◆ Campania Recreation Ground Management Committee (Proxy) ◆ Chauncy Vale Management Committee (Chair) ◆ Colebrook Halls Committee (Proxy) ◆ Coal River Area Fire Management Committee (Proxy) ◆ Dulverton Area Fire Management Committee (Proxy) ◆ Heritage Centre Management Committee (Chair) ◆ Southern Midlands Audit Committee ◆ Southern Waste Strategy Authority

Council Committee Structure



Cllr J L Jones OAM

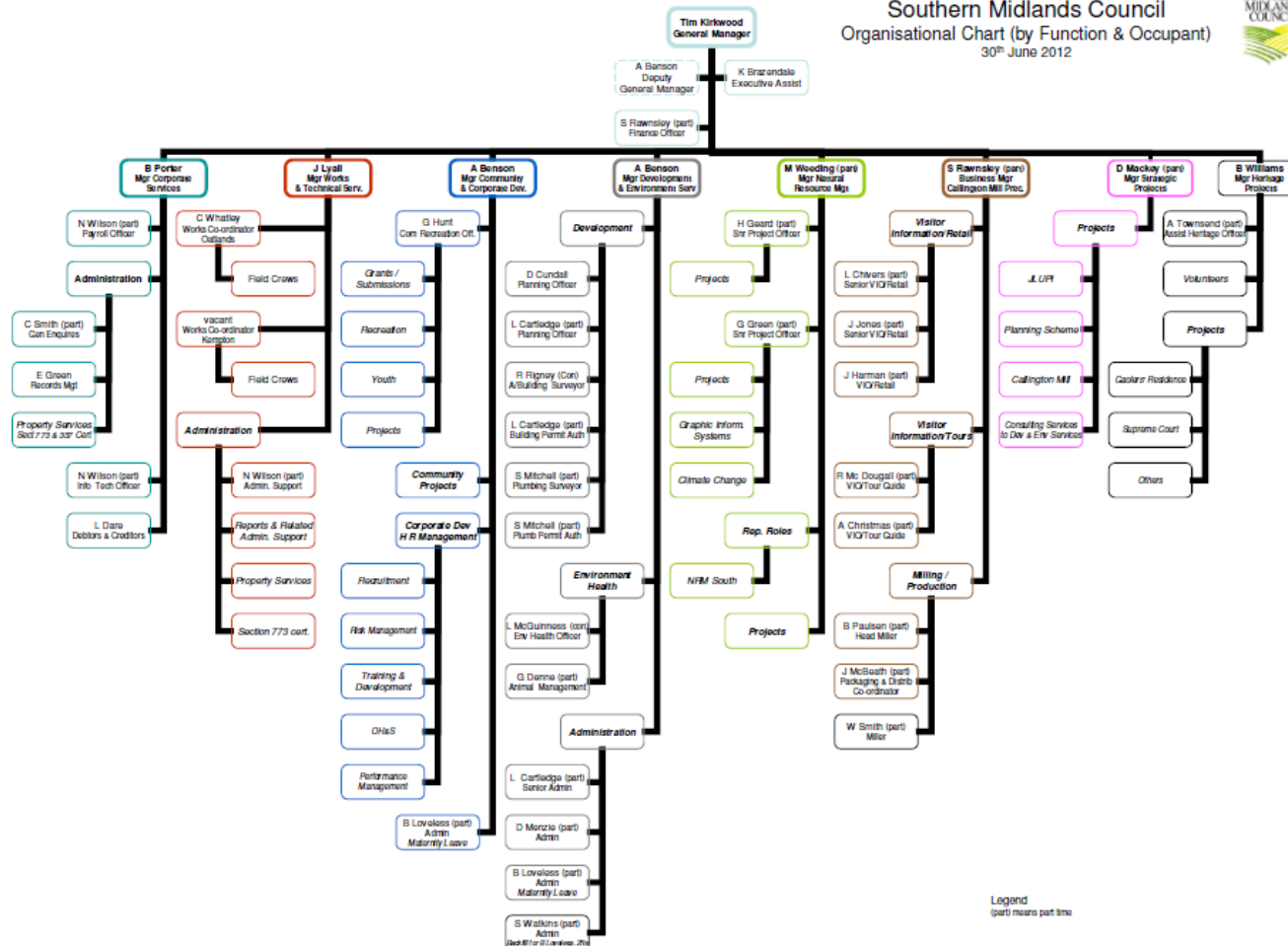
“Grangeside House”
27 Main Road Kempton
Ph. 62 591 223

- ◆ Council
- ◆ Blue Place Management Committee (Proxy)
- ◆ Jordan Area Fire Management Committee (Proxy)
- ◆ Midlands Economic Development and Land Use Strategy
- ◆ Oatlands Court House/ Gaol Working Group
- ◆ Southern Midlands Arts Strategy
- ◆ Southern Midlands Heritage Project Steering Committee
- ◆ Southern Midlands Facilities & Recreation Committee (Proxy)

Annual Report 2012-2013



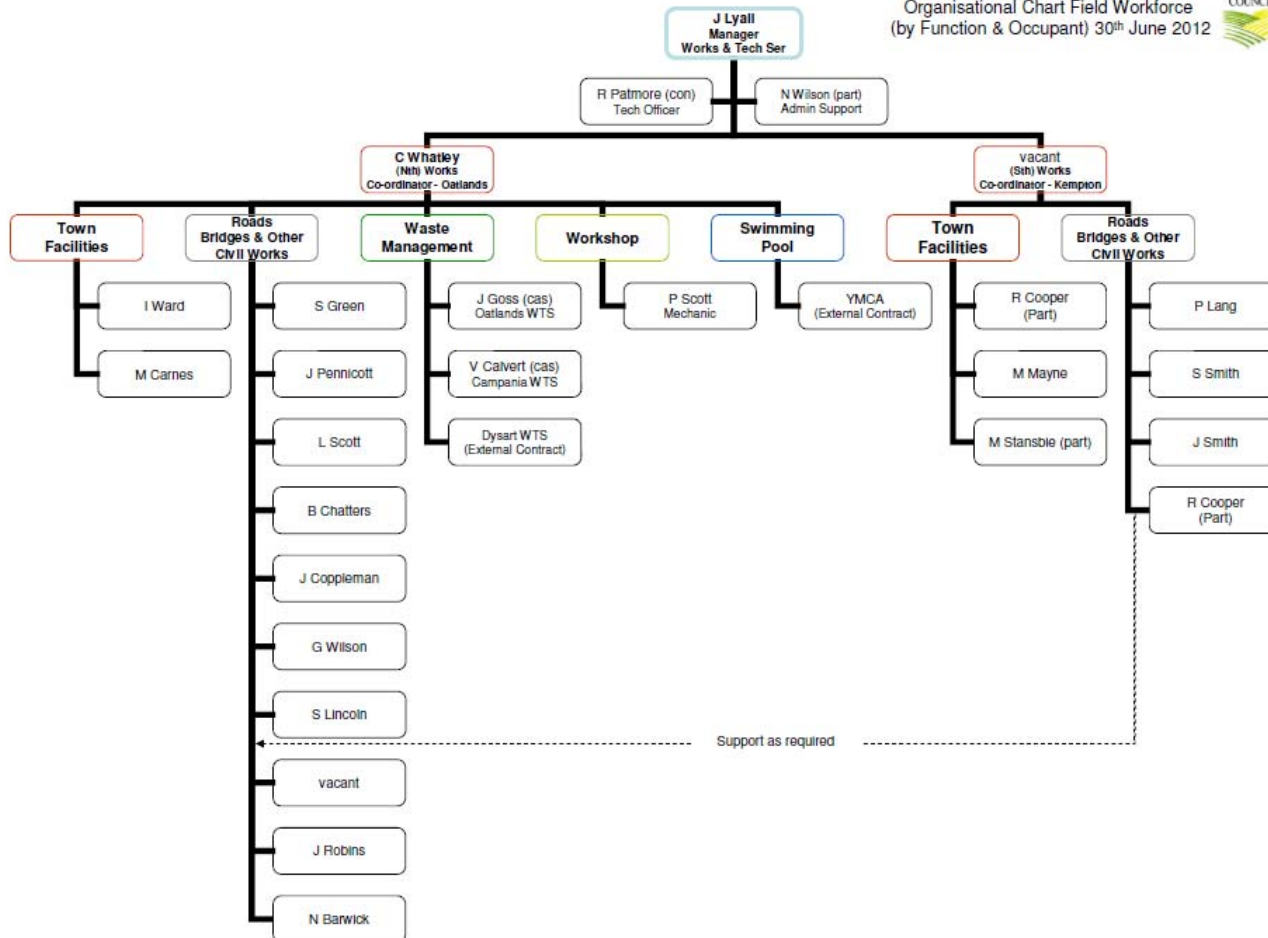
Southern Midlands Council Organisational Chart (by Function & Occupant) 30th June 2012





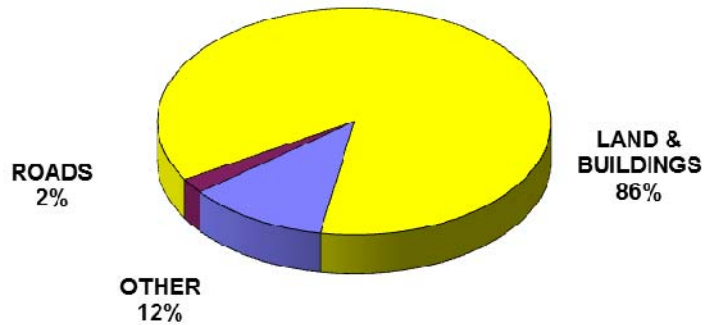
Annual Report 2012-2013

Southern Midlands Council
Organisational Chart Field Workforce
(by Function & Occupant) 30th June 2012

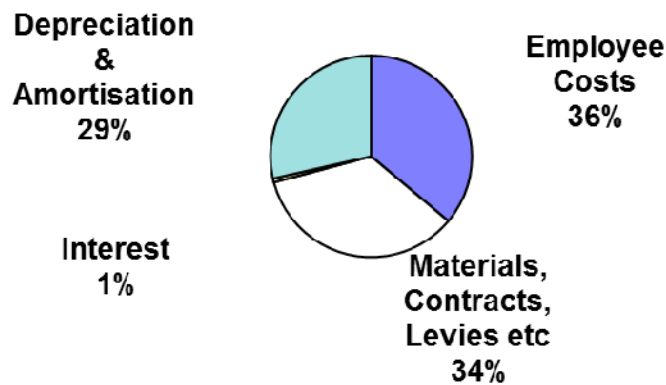


Statistics

LOAN DEBT by Type
as at 30th June, 2013
Total Debt \$988,297

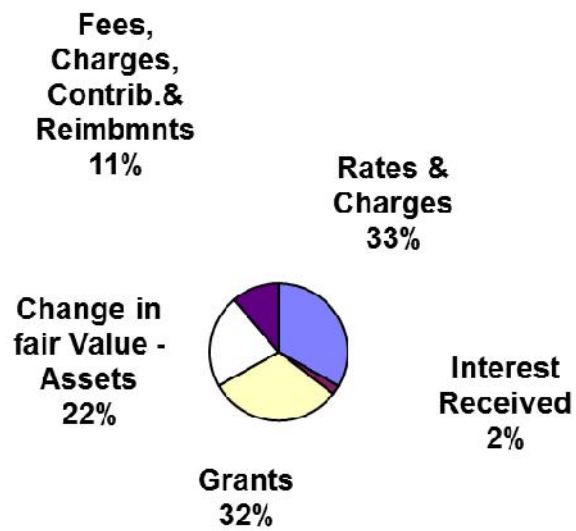


SOUTHERN MIDLANDS COUNCIL 2012/2013
ANALYSIS OF EXPENSES

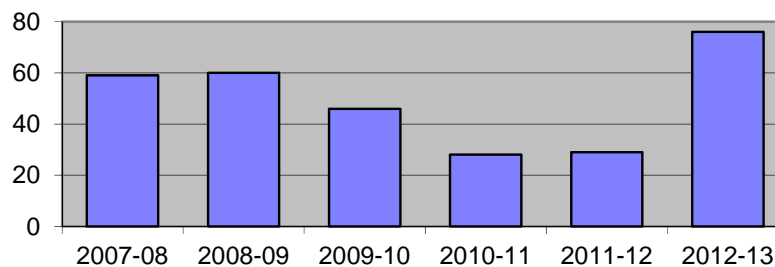


Statistics

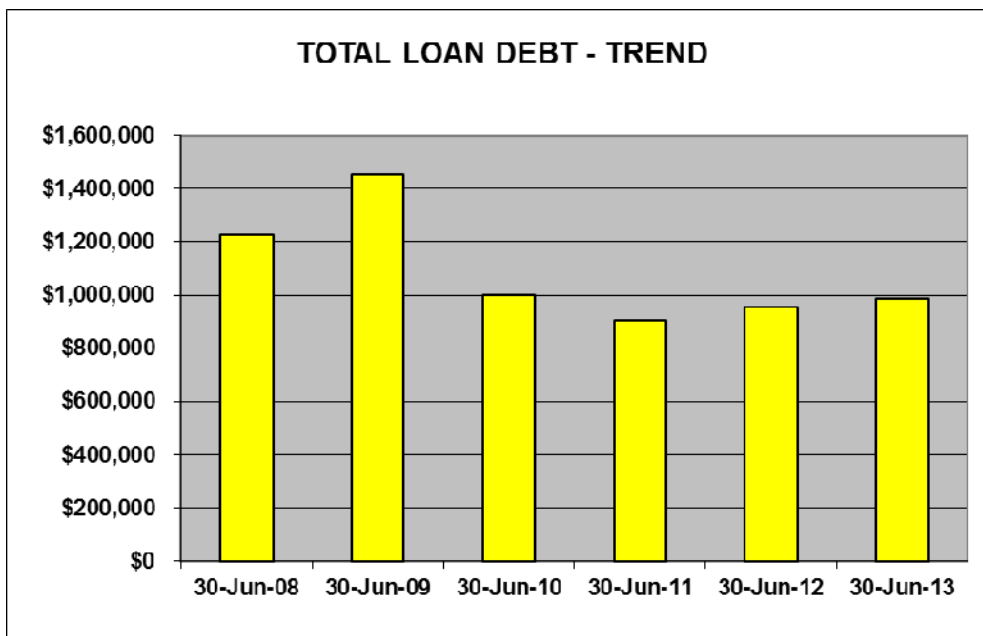
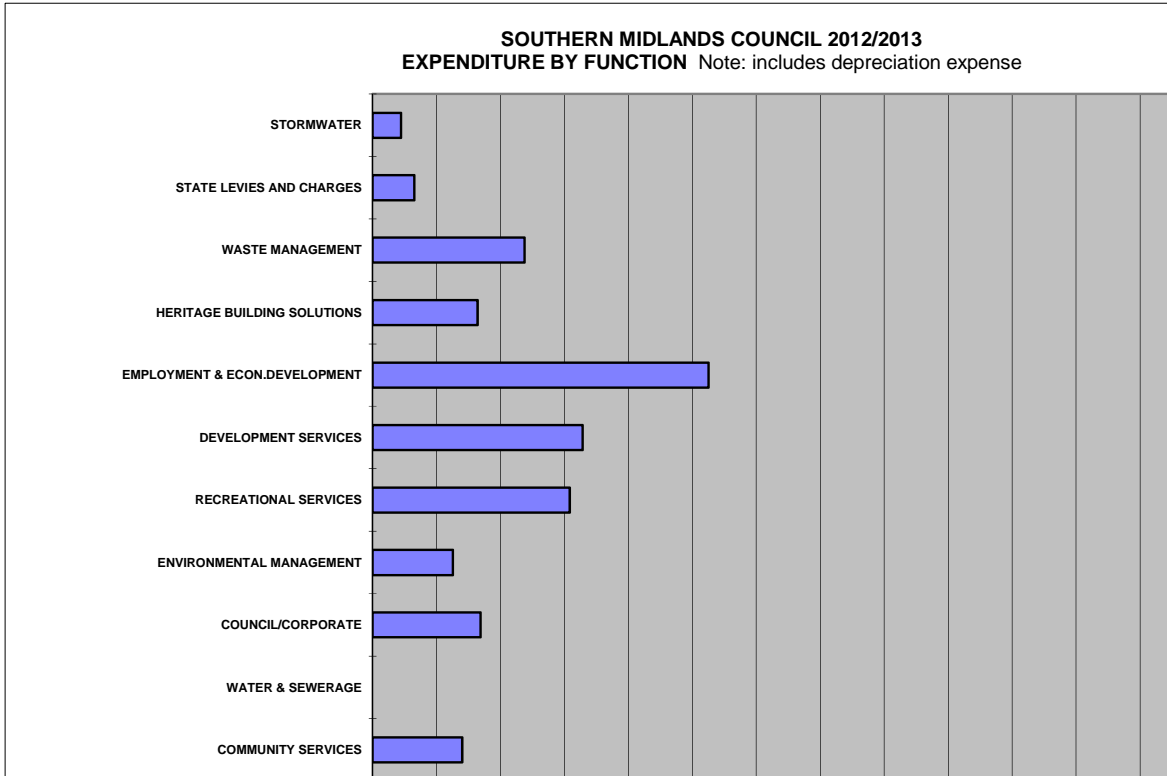
SOUTHERN MIDLANDS COUNCIL 2012/13 ANALYSIS OF REVENUE



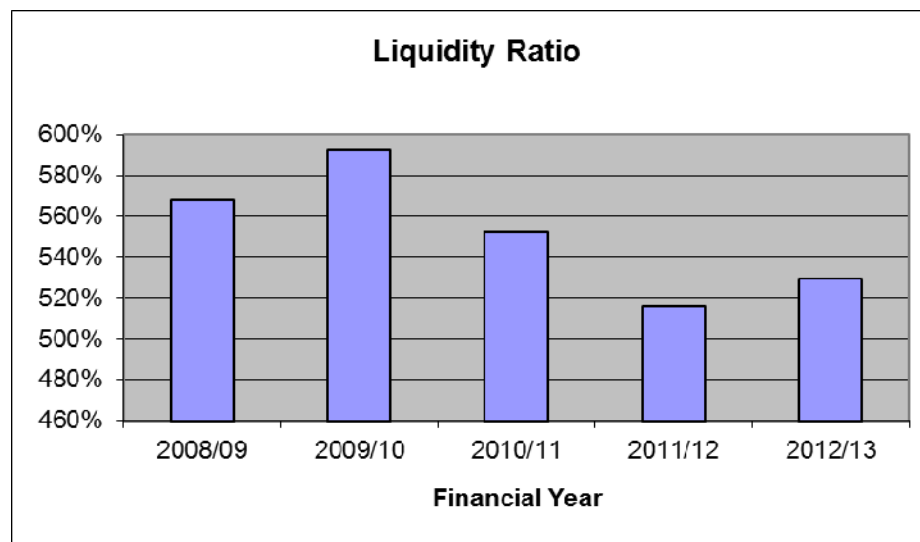
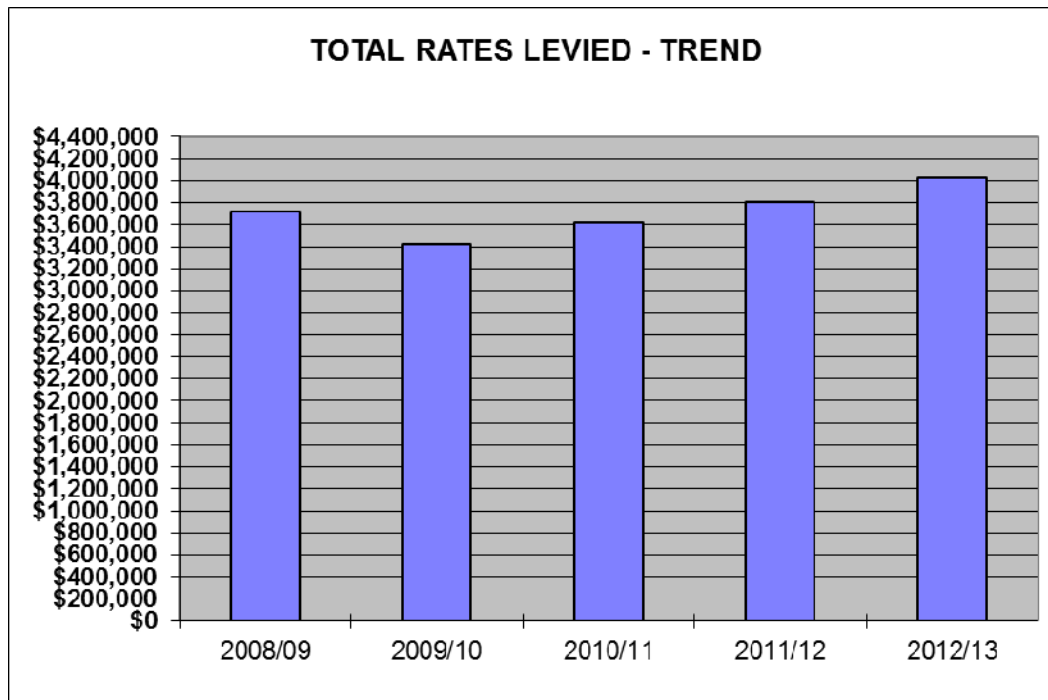
Number of New Dwellings approved.



Statistics



Statistics



Reporting on the 2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: INFRASTRUCTURE

2012-13 Achievements

2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

Roads

What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period

Maintenance and improvement of the standard and safety of roads in the municipal area.

Key actions:

- Continue to seek opportunities to increase funding for road maintenance and construction from Commonwealth and State Governments.
- Seek new, cost effective sources of road materials suitable for road maintenance.
- Continue to work with the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources to improve the safety and standard of the Midland Highway and other State Roads along with road junctions.
- Continue to focus on road drainage and road improvements as key elements of road maintenance.
- Ensure that appropriate sight distances are maintained for key transport routes, through effective roadside vegetation management / road realignment.
- Continue a program of regular safety audits of roads in conjunction with DIER.
- In partnership with the State Government examine the issue of reserved roads and their impact on fire and weed management.
- In partnership with the Community and the State Government, undertake highway beautification works, noise attenuation mounding and the development of a walkway path, for the township of Kempton.
- Actively pursue property owners to embrace Council's Unmade Street Policy.
- Review existing streetscape plans

The total road length for the municipal area is 803 kilometres, which are classified as following:

- 30 klms – Urban Sealed
- 13 klms – Urban Unsealed
- 153 klms – Rural Sealed
- 607 klms – Rural Unsealed

Approximately \$1,317,000 (excluding depreciation) was expended on the maintenance of roads within the municipal area.

Capital expenditure totaled \$1,213,493 which included:

- \$464K on re-sheeting unsealed roads;
- \$558K on reconstruction and resealing roads – Ballyhooly Road, Cliftonvale Road, Green Valley Road, Inglewood Road, Stanley Street and Stonor Road. .
- \$129K on road safety improvements, including corner realignments and installation of guard rails.

Council continues to work with the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources (DIER) to address a number of road safety issues, and undertake other initiatives aimed at improving both state and local road networks.

The Australian Government has legislated to extend the Roads to Recovery Program through to the end of 2018-19. This provides an additional annual grant that Council can utilise for road and bridge construction projects.

Reporting on the 2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: INFRASTRUCTURE

2012-13 Achievements

2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

Bridges

What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period

Maintenance and improvement of the standard and safety of bridges in the municipal area.

Key actions:

- Continue the current program of bridge maintenance, including the monitoring and consideration of new construction methods for the replacement of timber bridges, including Council's desire to replace timber bridges with concrete bridges.

There are 152 bridges and major culverts within the municipal area, with a total deck area of 8,214 m².

Approximately \$44,900 (excluding depreciation) was expended on the maintenance of bridges within the municipal area. Maintenance expenses continue to decline due to Council's pro-active renewal and replacement program.

A total of \$999,225 was capitalised in 2012/13, which included:

- Chauncy Vale Road Bridge - \$44,297
- Eldon Road Bridge (Burns Creek) - \$83,321
- Elderslie Rd - \$871,607

The Southern Midlands Council continues to engage AusSpan to undertake six-monthly inspections of all its bridge assets on an ongoing basis. These inspections provide Council with forward maintenance and capital works programs on a priority basis.



Reporting on the 2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: INFRASTRUCTURE

2012-13 Achievements

2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

Walkways, Cycle ways & Trails

What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period

Maintenance and improvement of the standard and safety of walkways, cycle ways and pedestrian areas to provide consistent accessibility.

Key actions:

- Prepare a forward capital upgrade program for existing walkways and pedestrian areas.
- Determine priorities for extensions to existing walkways and pedestrian areas.
- Identify and develop new cycleways, walkways and pedestrian areas.
- Develop a Trails Strategy for the Southern Midlands.

Ongoing maintenance of all walkways, cycle ways and pedestrian areas.

A total of \$62,000 was capitalised in 2012/13, which included:

- *Main Street, Kempton - \$25,966*
- *Blackbrush Road, Mangalore (incl. associated drainage works) - \$29,470*

Design plan(s) finalised for Swan Street, Bagdad. Construction deferred to enable consultation with Southern Water (now Tas Water) in relation to prior replacement of water infrastructure beneath the planned footpath.

Funds allocated to prepare design plan(s) for the construction of a new footpath in Reeve Street, Campania.

Reporting on the 2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: INFRASTRUCTURE

2012-13 Achievements

2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

Lighting

What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period

Improve lighting for pedestrians.
Contestability of energy supply.

Additional street lighting has been approved / provided in accordance with Council's Street-lighting Policy.

An amount of \$85,270 was paid to Aurora Energy in 2012/13 for streetlighting.

Key actions:

- Develop a program for upgrading lighting in areas of community need in accordance with the Australian Lighting Standard.
- Continue the underground of power and the establishment of heritage street lighting in High Street Oatlands.
- Investigate cost effective energy solutions for street lighting.

Reporting on the 2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: INFRASTRUCTURE

2012-13 Achievements

2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

Buildings

What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period

Maintenance and improvement of the standard and safety of public buildings in the Municipality.

Key actions:

- Develop a program for building management and maintenance across the municipality.
- Develop and maintain public amenities to meet Community needs.

Council is responsible for maintaining a large stock of public buildings. There are a variety of uses such as: Council offices; community hall and recreation facilities; heritage buildings; buildings within parks and reserves; housing; and public toilets.

The total replacement value of these buildings are assessed at \$12.20 million, with a current written down value of \$10.08 million.

A total of \$564,000 was capitalised in 2012/13, which included:

- Oatlands Gaol - \$132,870 (primarily grant funded)
- Kempton Watch House (incl. fit-out) - \$63,000
- Purchase of Commissariat property (79 High Street, Oatlands) - \$166,900
- Campania Hall improvements (incl. adjacent car park) - \$33,200
- Campania Recreation Ground (Cricket Nets & Storage facilities) - \$39,500
- Kempton Recreation Ground (external repainting etc.) - \$12,750
- Other minor projects totaling \$115,000

Reporting on the 2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: INFRASTRUCTURE

2012-13 Achievements

2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

Sewers

What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period

Increase the number of properties that have access to reticulated sewerage services.

Key actions:

- Investigate the future demand for sewerage services in areas zoned for the future residential, commercial and industrial development.
- Advocate for Developers and the Community to the Water Authority in respect of service level equity.

Full transfer of water and sewerage assets, liabilities and staff to the newly established regional corporations took place on 1 July 2009. From that date, responsibility for the provision of water and sewerage services moved from local councils to three new regional water and sewerage corporations (trading as Southern Water).

Net assets (sewerage and water) of \$11.311 million transferred to Southern Water, which represented an ownership interest of 1.2 % (based on the 2009 Draft Treasurer's Returns Allocation Order).

Council's share of the total net assets decreased marginally to \$13.844 million as at 30 June 2013 (\$13,847 million as at 30 June 2012). This represents an ownership interest of 1.50%.

Water and Sewerage – Ongoing Reform

From 1st July 2013, the three regional corporations are to be merged into a single statewide organisation, to be known as Tas Water. This is aimed at ensuring the long-term stability of the sector, and that the community receives full value from its investment in water and sewerage.

Tas Water is fully owned and controlled by local government.

Reporting on the 2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME:
INFRASTRUCTURE

2012-13 Achievements

2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

Water

What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period *Refer above comments – Sewers Program.*

Increase the number of properties that have access to reticulated water.

Key actions:

- Ensure that there is an ongoing replacement and upgrading of reticulation mains throughout the Municipality by the Water Authority.
- Investigate the future demand for reticulated water services in areas zoned for future residential, commercial and industrial development.
- Advocate for Developers and the Community to the Water Authority in respect of service level equity.

Reporting on the 2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: INFRASTRUCTURE

2012-13 Achievements

2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

Irrigation

What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period

Increase access to irrigation water within the municipality.

Key actions:

- Encourage and promote, development plus production opportunities associated with the new Irrigation Scheme.
- Support the implementation of the 'Midlands Water Scheme'.
- Support the State Governments Economic Development Plan in the growth of services to support the irrigation schemes.
- Encourage the adoption of water conservation practices.

Tasmania Irrigation (TI) continues to progress the 38,500 ML Midlands Irrigation Scheme - Arthurs Lake pipeline.

All Federal, State and Local Government approvals for the scheme were signed off in early 2012. TI subsequently engaged contractors to undertake the construction of the 110Km pipeline works. The works commenced in October 2012 with Fulton Hogan working on the supply line section (Arthurs Lake to Floods Creek Dam), and Hazell Bros the distribution line. As at 30 June 2013, the construction of the line was still continuing with close to 200 persons working on the line. Completion of works not expected until late 2013. A number of local residents have been employed by the above companies to work on the scheme construction. Residential and commercial rental properties have been leased in Southern Midlands as a direct result of the construction works occurring.

Council has been active in supporting the scheme with a Southern Midland's Council officer continuing to attending meetings of the Midlands Water Group and the Arthurs Pipeline Regional Representative Group (APRRG). Farm Water Access Plans and associated landholder requirements have been one of the main issues for discussion.

Council Officer and TI meetings have also been held to sort detailed arrangements regarding the water being made available for the front section of Lake Dulverton.

Reporting on the 2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: INFRASTRUCTURE

2012-13 Achievements

2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

Drainage

What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period

Maintenance and improvement of the town storm-water drainage systems.

Key actions:

- Continue to program capital works that improve the effectiveness of the storm-water drainage systems in the towns in the municipality.
- Research best-practice methods for the disposal of stormwater, that is applicable to country towns and rural living.
- Encourage the adoption of water conservation practices.
- Adopt 'Water Sensitive Urban Design Principles' where appropriate.

A total of \$20,765 was expended on capital works during 2012-13. Projects included:

- Stormwater system upgrade – Stanley Street, Oatlands (\$13,867)
- Hall Lane, Bagdad – improved drainage system (\$6,899)

Council continues to appraise and monitor an emerging new method to cope with stormwater; 'Water Sensitive Urban Design', which provides more opportunity for rain water to soak into the local water table. A number of examples in other locations in Southern Tasmania are being reviewed to understand the level of success of the method and the ongoing maintenance costs, which are thought to be higher than for traditional stormwater treatments.

The need for Stormwater gross pollutant traps have also been identified, the requirement of which is being incorporated in planning conditions for subdivisional development.

Reporting on the 2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: INFRASTRUCTURE

2012-13 Achievements

2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

Waste

What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period

Maintenance and improvement of the provision of waste management services to the Community.

Key actions:

- Continue to be an active participant in the Southern Waste Strategy.
- Continue to review the on-going operational arrangements for waste management including cooperation with other local government authorities.
- In conjunction with the Waste Advisory Council seek to identify suitable markets for recyclable products.

Council operates three waste transfer stations, as well as providing a kerbside garbage collection (using mobile garbage bins), and kerbside recycling service, throughout the municipality.

Council continues to be represented on the Southern Waste Strategy Authority (SWSA), which includes representatives from all 12 southern Tasmanian Councils, with Cllr Alex Green being re-elected as chair of the Authority. SWSA has continued to promote the need for waste management reform including the introduction of a compulsory waste levy in Tasmania. SWSA member council have reduced their volumes entering landfill, which is an excellent outcome, and the SWSA is working in a co-ordinated and co-operative manner with Tasmania's other two regional waste groups. SWSA was also instrumental in having the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) commission a study (funded by the three regional waste groups) on the possible effects of a "state-wide" Container Deposit Scheme on Local Government in Tasmania. SWSA has continued to develop and implement a targeted advertising campaign aligning with the State Government's anti-litter message, and was involved in sponsoring the 2013 Festival of the Voices through the provision of reusable water bottles.

Reporting on the 2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: INFRASTRUCTURE

2012-13 Achievements

2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

Information, Communication Technology

What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period

Improve access to modern communications infrastructure.

Key actions:

- Seek opportunities to facilitate the provision of cost effective broadband and mobile telecommunications access across the municipality through the NBN.
- Seek opportunities to ensure the continuation and maintenance of land-line and public telephone services.
- Assess opportunities of wireless networks &/or other related technologies.

Council continued to lobby the Australian Government to focus on the provision of cost effective broadband and mobile telecommunications across the municipal area.

Additional communication towers have been erected throughout the municipal area to address 'black-spot' areas.

Signage

What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period

Signage that is distinctive, informative, easy to see and easy to understand.

Key actions:

- Implement the signage strategy for the Southern Midlands.

Ongoing assessment of signage requirements aimed at meeting the objective of signage that is distinctive, informative, easy to see and easy to understand.

A considerable investment has been made in respect to signage for Oatlands generally and the Callington Mill Precinct in particular, with the erection of additional signage in 2012-13.

In 2012-13 the design of new tourism directional leaf signs for pedestrians within Oatlands was refined, ready for installation in 2013-2014.

Reporting on the 2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: **GROWTH**

2012-13 Achievements

2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

Residential

What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period

Increase the resident, ratepaying population in the municipality.

Key actions:

- Seek opportunities to increase the number of subdivisions providing affordable land in areas that can utilise the existing water, sewer and road infrastructure within the framework of the Planning Scheme.
- Investigate the potential of under-utilised Commonwealth, State and Local Government owned land for use and/or development.
- Investigate and pursue innovative responses to residential developments whilst maintaining 'village character'.

In the 2011 Census there were 6,049 persons usually resident in the Southern Midlands.

115 Development Applications and 16 Subdivision / Boundary Adjustment Applications, along with 90 Building Applications (dwellings and other buildings/additions) were processed / issued during the 2012/2013 reporting period.

The sub-regional "Land Use Strategy 2008" indicates that the Southern Midlands has experienced a small, and slowing population increase in recent years. Projections suggest that this slow increase will continue in the forecasting period assuming growth factors remain unchanged. However, it is further recognised that the advent of the Intermodal Freight Hub and anticipated associated development at Bridgewater will result in a significant boost in demand in the Bagdad-Mangalore-Dysart-Kempton corridor.

Most towns in the municipal area retain sufficient undeveloped land zoned for residential development.

In 2012-2013 Council progressed the Midlands Economic Development & Landuse Strategy in partnership with the Department of Economic Development Tourism and the Arts. One aim of the project is to ensure Council does all it can to leverage the maximum economic benefit from the Midlands Water Scheme for the municipality as a whole. It is also examining a range of recommendations to support growth and economic development, including supporting residential growth in targeted localities and attracting industries using the area's competitive advantages.

Reporting on the 2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: **GROWTH**

2012-13 Achievements

2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

Tourism

What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period

Increase the number of tourists visiting and spending money in the Municipality.

Key actions:

- Seek opportunities to support the development and growth of a wide range of Tourism in the Southern Midlands.
- Seek opportunities to further develop the Callington Mill Precinct as well as the Military Precinct.
- Support the development of tourism products (e.g. the Pugin Trail).
- Work in partnership with other State, Regional and local organisations including Destination Southern Tasmania and the Heritage Highway Tourism Region Association.
- Develop a new Southern Midlands Tourism Plan in light of recent tourism development.
- Support the ongoing delivery of services by the Heritage Highway Visitor Information Centre.
- Work with Heritage Tasmania and Tourism Tasmania to progress the recommendations of the Tasmanian Historic Heritage Tourism Strategy at the local level.

Tasmanian Visitor Survey statistics indicate total visitation to Oatlands decreased to 78,700 persons during 2012-13 (89,900 in 2011/12). This is consistent with the general downturn in the tourism industry, however it is noted that the number of nights stayed increased substantially from 6,700 to 9,000 over the same period.

The demographics of visitors show that Oatlands is most popular with holidaying interstate visitors in the older age brackets.

Approximately 49,000 visitors were recorded through the Callington Mill Visitor Centre during 2012-13.

In terms of regional tourism, progress has been made to establish a new regional body 'Destination South'. This follows the demise of Totally South. Council received briefings in relation to the proposed direction and activities of the new organisation.

Reporting on the 2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME:
GROWTH

2012-13 Achievements

2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

Tourism (Continued)

Council continues to support the Heritage Highway Tourism Region Association and provided a contribution of \$12,000 in 2012-13.

The Association has two main purposes:

- To facilitate sustainable and profitable business opportunities through the provision of a series of distinct visitor experiences, by engaging all communities in the development of their individual and complementary identities*
- To maximise business for the region's tourism industry, to build demand for core services, to development, to develop new marketing segments and to raise demand for tourism and other businesses in the region.*



Reporting on the 2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: **GROWTH**

2012-13 Achievements

2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

Business

What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period

Increase the number and diversity of business in the Southern Midlands.

Increase employment within the municipality.

Increase Council revenue to facilitate business and development activities (social enterprise).

Key actions:

- Continue to facilitate and be actively involved in the development of new business opportunities.
- Continue to provide support to businesses within the municipality to help ensure their long-term viability and to support them to actively work cooperatively together.
- Support a heritage focus for business in Oatlands.
- Undertake a study of equine & services in respect of the former Oatlands racecourse
- Seek opportunities to support the development of affordable temporary accommodation for seasonal and other workers
- Pursue the establishment of regional or statewide facilities that can take advantage of the municipalities central location and the accessibility of road and rail facilities

On-going operation of the Southern Midlands Council owned entities associated with the Centre for Heritage at Oatlands:

- a) Heritage Building Solutions Pty Ltd - a proprietary company which operates the 'Services Arm'; and*
- b) Heritage Education and Skills Centre Ltd - a company limited by guaranteed to operate the 'Education Arm'.*

Achievements of those entities for the year include:

- *Commercial conservation, restoration and advisory roles on several significant Tasmanian heritage sites, including World Heritage places.*
- *Continuation of an apprenticeship scheme.*
- *A focus on utilising local labour and materials where possible.*
- *A successful series of short-courses on heritage trades and conservation practices and a free advisory service to local heritage property owners.*
- *Facilitation of partnerships with complimentary organisations.*

Through the Midlands Economic Development and Landuse Strategy (MEDaLS) Council also progressed the process of identifying Southern Midlands' competitive advantages and the industries that might therefore be potentially attracted to the area.

Reporting on the 2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

**STRATEGIC THEME:
GROWTH**

2012-13 Achievements

Business (Continued)

- Identify opportunities associated with the gas pipe-line running through Southern Midlands
- Develop and provide incentives to businesses to establish in the Southern Midlands or for local businesses to expand
- Develop and maintain infrastructure critical for the establishment and retention of business
- Develop opportunities and participate in a range of business activities centered on the unique competitive advantage of assets in the Southern Midlands
- Maintain support for viable Council business operations such as Callington Mill Business Precinct, Heritage Building Solutions and Heritage Education & Skills Centre

Also through the MEDaLS project Council undertook a preliminary assessment of the use and possible future organisational requirements of the former Oatlands Racecourse. Council remains committed to facilitating an overarching management structure when the need arises in the future.

Reporting on the 2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME:
GROWTH

2012-13 Achievements

2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

Industry

What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period

See comments provided under "Irrigation" Program.

Retain and enhance the development of the rural sector as a key economic driver in the Southern Midlands.

In 2012-2013 Council progressed the Midlands Economic Development & Landuse Strategy in partnership with the Department of Economic Development Tourism and the Arts. One aim of the project is to ensure Council does all it can to leverage the maximum economic benefit from the Midlands Water Scheme for the municipality as a whole. It is also examining a range of recommendations to support growth and economic development, including supporting residential growth in targeted localities and attracting industries using the area's competitive advantages.

Key actions:

- Develop opportunities that enhance Southern Midlands role as a focal point for rural activity.
- Seek opportunities to establish and expand sale-yards and abattoirs.
- Work in partnership with the State Government to establish a truck wash facility to support the agricultural community.
- Continue implementation of the Southern Midlands Weed Management Strategy as it relates to agricultural land.
- Facilitate the development of value adding opportunities in the rural sector through high production agriculture.
- Encourage and facilitate innovation in the rural sector.
- Facilitate traditional skills development in heritage and allied industries in vocational education and training.

Reporting on the 2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: **GROWTH**

2012-13 Achievements

2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

Integration

What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period

The integrated development of towns and villages in the Southern Midlands.

Key actions:

- Continue to review the Oatlands Development Strategy.
- Expand the concept of the Oatlands Integrated Development Strategy to provide for a municipality wide integrated development strategy.
- Ensure that, through effective strategic planning, community benefit from development of the Bagdad-Mangalore Bypass is maximised.
- Maximise the opportunities presented through the sub regional Joint Land Use Planning Initiative (JLUPI) and the development of a new Planning Scheme.
- Development of a new Planning Scheme.

Refer comments provided under “Business” and “Industry”.

Recommendations from the final Bagdad-Mangalore Structure Plan (BMSP) and the broader Settlement and Open Space Strategy, completed in 2010-11 were incorporated into the drafting of the new Southern Midlands Interim Planning Scheme. The BMSP provides a detailed spatial strategy for the area up until the Bagdad-Mangalore Bypass is constructed, and an outline for development in the valley following construction. The Settlement Strategy provides a range of recommendations for other major towns in the municipality.

The draft interim scheme is also being progressed in line with the Southern Tasmania Regional Land Use Strategy and the Regional Model Planning Scheme. In June 2013 the public was provided with a (non-statutory) opportunity to comment on the draft Southern Midlands Interim Planning Scheme. In concert with the other eleven southern Councils, it is intended that the draft scheme will be finalized and submitted to the Minister in the 2013-2014 year for the State’s consideration.

Reporting on the 2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: LANDSCAPES

2012-13 Achievements

2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

Heritage

What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period

Maintenance and restoration of significant heritage structures.

Act as an advocate for heritage and provide support to heritage property owners.

Investigate document, understand and promote the heritage values of the Southern Midlands.

Key actions:

- Manage the heritage values of Council owned heritage buildings according to best practice.
- Work in Partnership with the State Government to ensure the strategic long-term management of publicly owned heritage sites.
- Urgently seek to accelerate the process of relocating the swimming pool from the historic Oatlands gaol site.
- Seek to establish the Oatlands gaol site as an historic/archaeological education centre.
- Support the ongoing development of the Heritage Skills Centre in Oatlands.
- Facilitate and investigate opportunities for assisting heritage property owners in conserving heritage places alongside sustainable ongoing usage.

Implementation of the Southern Midlands Historic Heritage Strategy 2009-13 is progressing. Most initiatives have been completed or substantially progressed and a review of that document is underway.

The interpretation fit-out of the Oatlands Gaoler's Residence is nearing completion. Essential restoration works to the gaol walls has been undertaken and the process of reinstating the gaol arch is underway.

Volunteer and visitor facilities (kitchenette and toilet) have been constructed at the Oatlands Supreme Court House to promote community use of that building.

A conservation management plan and master plan has been developed for the Oatlands Commissariat – with public consultation. Funding opportunities are currently being explored for the implementation of those plans.

The Centre for Heritage at Oatlands – Heritage Education and Skills Centre continues to run under the umbrella of Council – promoting heritage skills to the wider community.

A successful archaeological excavation program was run at the 1827 Oatlands Gaol, Barracks and Guard House in conjunction with several mainland universities.

Planning for a replacement Oatlands pool is progressing.

Investigations into Southern Midlands convict sites are progressing, with a major research project nearing completion. Some interpretation and a booklet will be produced from this research.

Reporting on the 2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: LANDSCAPES

2012-13 Achievements

2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

Heritage (Continued)

- Undertake and encourage research into the heritage values of the Southern Midlands
- Undertake the effective heritage interpretation, education and communication programs.
- Continue to manage and utilise Councils heritage resource and collections.

The Southern Midlands Community Heritage Archive Project was undertaken which collected and promoted the community heritage of the region in 12 centres throughout the municipal area. This has culminated in permanent exhibitions.

The Southern Midlands Heritage Project implementation (update of statutory registers and heritage provisions) is continuing as part of the draft interim planning scheme process.

Council employs a part-time heritage collections officer to audit, manage and promote Council's heritage collections.

The staging of several open days and community heritage activities (including an archaeology open day which attracted over 500 people).

Council has also continued to participate in regional efforts to develop a region-wide planning scheme heritage code (previous State work to develop a state-wide code has ceased), the review of the Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995 and the Aboriginal Relics Act 1975.

For further detail on the achievements of the SMC Heritage Program, see the Heritage Program annual report at <http://www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au/heritage-program-strategy/>

Reporting on the 2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: LANDSCAPES

2012-13 Achievements

2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

Natural

What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period

Identify and protect areas that are of high conservation value.

Encourage the adoption of best practice landcare practices.

Key actions:

- Continue implementation of the Southern Midlands Weed Management Strategy.
- Implement and monitor the Lake Dulverton Management Strategy and Action Plan.
- Continue to work co-operatively with the Tasmanian Land Conservancy to add value to the Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary as guided by the Management Plan.
- Actively pursue grant opportunities & projects in relation to preservation of bushland remnants, vegetation, and regenerative agricultural techniques
- Establish collaborative partnerships with NRM South, DPIPWE, Understorey Network, Tas Land Conservancy and other relevant organisations to deliver on-ground projects.

There is an ongoing commitment to managing weeds on roadsides, quarries and public reserves, with a focus on gorse and broome. Independent spraying contractor engaged.

The outbreak of Serrated Tussock at Spring Hill continues to be actively managed by the landholders involved. There have not been any other sites in the Southern Midlands recorded with Serrated Tussock to date.

The Lake Dulverton Management Strategy and the Lake Dulverton Action Plan 2008 continue to be implemented. A review of the Action Plan was commenced in May. The revised plan will also incorporate the Dulverton Walking Track. Maher's Point cottage restoration is continuing. Work has commenced on developing an Operational Plan for the 215ML allocation of water for Lake Dulverton through the Midlands Water Scheme.

The Southern Midlands Bushcare Strategy (SMBS) continues to remain relevant. Australian Government funds of \$766,400 were secured from the Clean Energy Future: Biodiversity Fund in late 2011/12. The funds are being used to deliver the 'Bushlinks 500' project. The project has a focus on landscape connectivity with site suitability principally guided by the Natural Resource Planning (NRP) group's Regional Ecosystem Model as well as the Southern Midlands Bushcare Strategy. NRP is one of partners with Southern Midlands Council in the project.

Best Practice Landcare information continues to be promoted, with information and research literature being available and distributed to many landholders upon contact with the Landcare office.

Reporting on the 2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME:
GROWTH

2012-13 Achievements

2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

Natural (Continued)

Council continues to support the Midlands Tree Committee in implementing Landcare works (revegetation and remnant bush conservation) as per the Southern Midlands Bushcare Strategy). 3400 native plants were distributed to around 23 landholders in July 2012. The purchase of these plants was made possible through Midlands Tree Committee funds.

The Macquarie Catchment Water Management Plan being developed by the Department of Primary Industries Parks Water and Environment (DPIPWE) was released for public comment and has subsequently been approved by the Minister for DPIPWE. Southern Midlands participated in the development of the plan as part of the Macquarie Catchment Water Management Plan Consultative Group.

*The Council has continued to support the Little Swanport Catchment Committee. The highlight of the year was the launch in November 2012 of the book *The Value of Water in a Drying Climate*. Research and work to produce the book began around five years ago. The book focuses on the Little Swanport catchment as a case study. The Committee and Council's NRM Officers have provided input into the publication during that time.*

Officers from all southern region councils continued participation in the development of the Biodiversity Offset Guidelines, a project being co-ordinated by the Southern Tasmanian Councils Association. The Guidelines are a planning guide with the use of the guidelines by Councils being optional. The project has now concluded.

The Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary at Bagdad continues to be managed by Council via a community Management Committee.

Reporting on the 2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: **LANDSCAPES**

2012-13 Achievements

2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

Cultural

What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period

Increase the retention, documentation and accessibility of the aboriginal, convict, rural and contemporary culture of the Southern Midlands.

Ensure that the Cultural diversity of the Southern Midlands is maximised.

Key actions:

- Identify and document the cultural heritage of the Southern Midlands.
- Continue to develop and implement an Arts Strategy for the Southern Midlands.
- Continue to develop a documented history of the Southern Midlands.
- Support the establishment and development of the Buddhist Cultural Park in an appropriate location in the Southern Midlands.

Council is continuing to update its database of locally significant heritage places for the municipality, in readiness for the new draft interim planning scheme which is to be completed in 2013/14. The outputs of the 2007 heritage project between Council and Heritage Tasmania provide a substantial number of recommendations to inform updates to both the State and local heritage registers, including both individual places and precincts/landscapes

Dr Alison Alexander completed “The Southern Midlands – A History”, which brought together extensive historic research, including information and images gathered from a range of persons within the Southern Midlands. This important work has captured and documented the cultural and social historical context of the Southern Midlands. Funding was gratefully received from the State Government to assist the publication. The book was launched by His Excellency, The Hon Peter Underwood AC, Governor of Tasmania in October 2012.

Pursuant to the recommendation in the JLUPI Bagdad/Mangalore Structure Plan and the Heritage Management Plan, Council continued its investigation of the possible creation of a heritage landscape precinct in the lower Mangalore and Pontville district, based around Shene, in conjunction with neighbouring Brighton Council.

Reporting on the 2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: LANDSCAPES

2012-13 Achievements

2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

Regulatory

What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period

A regulatory environment that is supportive of and enables appropriate development.

Key actions:

- Continue to support the State Government's Regional Planning Initiative and to work in corporately within the Southern Tasmanian region to develop a new planning scheme
- Encourage the State Government to provide more direction to the planning system through the introduction of more State planning policies
- Make use of the Joint Land Use Planning Initiative (JLUPI) outcomes to develop the local content for the new planning scheme
- Process planning, building and plumbing applications in a timely manner and monitor compliance with the relevant legislation.

One new Planning Directives was created by the State in 2012-2013; a standard bushfire risk management code. This applies to new planning schemes and has therefore been incorporated into the draft interim planning scheme currently being developed by Southern Midlands.

115 Development Applications and 16 Subdivision / Boundary Adjustment Applications, along with 90 Building Applications (dwellings and other buildings) were processed / issued during the 2012/2013 reporting period. 74 Plumbing Permits were issued during the period.

During 2012-13 Council continued to fully engage with the Southern Tasmania Regional Planning Project and the State's broader planning reform initiative. Southern Midlands Council, along with the other eleven Councils in the region, has been collectively working on the model planning scheme provisions for the region. It is under this project that the new interim planning scheme for the Southern Midlands is being finalised, with a core of regionally consistent provisions.

Whilst the Regional Strategy now provides a degree of high-level common direction, Southern Midlands remains well positioned to include its local-level planning scheme content having completed a range of local level strategic planning work through the 'Joint Land Use Planning Initiative (JLUPI)', which was completed in 2009-10, with final documents endorsed in 2010-11. This has provided detailed strategic planning in key locales and includes structure plans for major townships and the Bagdad-Mangalore corridor – the municipality's major growth area located on the periphery of greater Hobart.

Reporting on the 2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: LANDSCAPES

2012-13 Achievements

2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

Climate Change

What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period

Implement strategies to address the issues of Climate Change in relation to its impact on Council's corporate functions and on the Community.

Key actions:

- Implement priority actions defined in Council's corporate Climate Change Adaption Plan
- Continue implementation of Council's Climate Change Action Plan to continually improve energy efficiency and to assist the Community in energy efficiency initiatives
- Establish collaborative partnerships with other Councils, key stakeholders and other tiers of government that strengthen Council's responses to climate change.

Program achievements are listed under the following:

Energy audits & efficiency measures

Southern Midlands Council's Climate Change Action Plan includes the following elements in relation to energy efficiency:

- *Energy auditing (tracking electricity and fuel usage, and associated emissions, across all council functions on a quarterly basis).*
- *Energy efficiency (using data collected in energy auditing to guide actions that can effectively reduce energy usage and fuel consumption).*
- *Community programs such as energy efficiency advice and information sessions.*

Council continued good progress with energy efficiency in 2012-13 cutting energy consumption by a total of 6% across all operations, the same cut as in the previous year. Council's electricity bill would have been \$7200 higher had this cut in energy consumption not been achieved.

Ongoing improvement in performance is expected, particularly in light of the recently completed energy efficiency retrofit of the Town Hall in Oatlands. This work is part funded by a grant received from the Australian Government's Community Energy efficiency Program (CEEP) (\$26,000), together with a contribution of \$15,000 from Council. This work is expected to result in reduction in energy usage of 20,000 kilowatt hours per year, or the equivalent of nearly \$5,500 per year in energy costs.

New Grant Funds

Council was committed funds from the Australian Government's 'Local Government Energy Efficiency Program' in May 2013. The funds (\$20,793) are for installation (and project management) of efficient hot water systems to

Reporting on the 2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: **LANDSCPAES**

2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

Climate Change (Continued)

2012-13 Achievements

Council-owned community buildings. Council's required contribution to secure the funding was \$3500. This project commenced with installation of a heat-pump hot water system at the Kempton recreation ground club rooms in June. This initiative is expected to result in a saving of 85% in hot water charges at this facility.

Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategy

Along with all southern councils, Southern Midlands Council signed up to endorse the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategy produced through the STCA's Regional Councils Climate Adaptation Project. Southern Midlands Council continues to participate in a regional forum to define climate change adaptation actions that are best implemented at a regional level, rather than by each individual council.

Community energy efficiency initiatives

The following community initiatives were undertaken in 2012-13:

- *Council's Home Energy Assessment Toolkit (HEAT toolkit) was available as a take-home kit enabling residents to undertake their own home energy use appraisals.*
- *Provision of advice to residents on energy efficiency and solar technology options.*
- *Update of web resources, including information for residents on solar hot water systems and photovoltaic systems.*

Waste to energy initiative – *a proposal has been co-developed in conjunction with Brighton Council to efficiently utilise Council's 'green waste' to produce renewable energy products. By the end of June 2013, the Southern Waste Strategy Authority (SWSA) had been approached with the view to securing grant funds to undertake a business case for building and commissioning a regional green waste processing facility. To date there has been a positive response. Once completed, a business case will position Council well to potentially co-invest and/or seek grant funds to develop an appropriate facility to process green waste into value-added products.*

Reporting on the 2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: LIFESTYLE

2012-13 Achievements

2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

Community Health & Wellbeing

What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period

Support and Improve the independence, health and wellbeing of the Community.

Key actions:

- Partner with Governments, adjoining Council's and non-government organisations to improve the health and well-being of the Community.

Council provides a weekly pick up of 'rescued' food from Second Bite in Glenorchy which is then transported to Rural Alive and Well Inc. at Melton Mowbray for direct distribution to needy families in the Southern Midlands municipality. Fresh fruit, vegetables, drinks and bakery items are regular fare that is delivered door to door to those most in need. The food is provided via supermarkets and growers to Second Bite who in turn warehouse and re-distribute the goods as needed too many partner organisations for direct distribution throughout Tasmania. Community group Midlands Initiatives for Local Enterprise [M.I.L.E.] at Oatlands also conduct a similar program known as "Bush Buddies" which provides food and supplies for those families doing it tough from time to time.

Healthy Communities Initiative

The Southern Midlands Council, in partnership with Northern Midlands Council and Central Highlands Council, were successful in accessing an Australian Government competitive grant program called the Healthy Communities Initiative, receiving \$560,000 through the National Partnership Agreement on Preventive Health.

This funding supports the three Local Government areas in developing and delivering holistic community based physical activity and healthy eating programs, as well as developing a range of policy environments to support healthy lifestyle behaviours.

Reporting on the 2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: LIFESTYLE

2012-13 Achievements

2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

Youth

What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period

Increase the retention of young people in the municipality.

Key actions:

- Facilitate a mentoring and leadership program in partnership with the schools in the Southern Midlands.
- Develop youth programs that cover employment and training as well as being linked to social, recreational and entertainment activities.
- In Partnership with the State Government investigate ways to enhance the delivery of youth services in the Southern Midlands.
- Respond to and monitor the recreation needs of the young people of the Southern Midlands.
- Work with Community groups to facilitate meaningful youth engagement and support.

Council, in conjunction with SM Rural Primary Health Services and the 'Connecting Families and School Communities' program run by Communities for Children, continue to provide a very successful School Holiday Program which now stretches over four School term breaks. The applicable age range is 9 to 16 years.

Virtually every session was booked to capacity, with a varied array of exciting and new experiences being shared by all who took part, including trips to Cataract Gorge, Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, the ever popular Aquatic Centre in Launceston, Zoo Doo and Bellerive Beach in the south, as well as a fabulous Derwent River cruise on the then 4 week old MONA ROMA fast ferry.

The award winning relationship between Reclink Australia and Council has continued to blossom throughout the year, with the Reclink Youth AFL Football League again running during the 2013 season, culminating in a Gala Day in September. Teams from 5 regional schools participated including Oatlands [known as the Southern Midlands Hawks] and Campania [known as the Campania Cats] who partnered with Bothwell School to form a combined team. Participation and social interaction is the major focus of the League and the teams representing the two Southern Midlands schools performed admirably in all facets of the matches.

Council has maintained its membership of the Youth Network of Tasmania and has provided regular input via surveys and direct contact on many youth related issues. Regular meetings with surrounding Council's Youth workers have also contributed to an increase in joint events and activities catering for the needs of our young people.

Council continues to be a Member of the Youth Network of Tasmania.

Reporting on the 2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: LIFESTYLE

2012-13 Achievements

2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

Seniors

What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period

Improve the ability of the aged to stay in their communities.

Key actions:

- Facilitate assistance for the aged to stay in their own homes, or with the support of a dependant carer & Support Organisations in independent living units.
- Provide continuing support to the Midlands Multi-Purpose Health Centre (MMPHC)
- Provide support for and where appropriate facilitate the meaningful social engagement of older members of our community.

A successful event was held in October 2012 to celebrate Seniors Week. Entitled "Walk 'n Ride – Oatlands to Parattah", the day started with a leisurely stroll or bike ride along the Lake Dulverton track, concluding at a function held at the Parattah Jubilee Hall. Music, morning tea, raffles and service provider stalls were enjoyed by a good crowd of senior residents.

The Men's Sheds at both Oatlands and Woodsdale are continuing to provide an excellent venue for local residents to meet in a welcoming atmosphere where they can make new friends and undertake all those jobs that they may not have the necessary equipment at home to complete. Upholstery, furniture making, arts and crafts and much more are being produced at these sheds, and all are welcome to drop in for a chat, a hot cuppa and maybe finish off that long forgotten project with the help of the friendly Shed Supervisors. Fridays are now designated as "ladies day" at the Oatlands Shed, and we are uncovering some highly skilled ladies doing amazing things.

Council is represented on the MMPHC Community Advisory Committee, being an advisory body to the Centre's management. Its role is to consult with the Community and provide input into the services delivered from the Centre. Council officers continue to work with the Community Advisory Committee in a range of roles.

Rural Alive & Well Inc also continues to provide valuable services in the region. RAW was a project that started its existence as part of the Community & Corporate Development business unit of the SM Council.

Reporting on the 2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: LIFESTYLE

2012-13 Achievements

2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

Children & Families

What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period

Ensure that appropriate childcare services, as well as other family related services, are facilitated within the Community.

Key actions:

- Review the adequacy of current childcare facilities (i.e. location, accessibility and number of placements).
- Take appropriate action to address any shortfalls identified in the provision of family related services across the Southern Midlands.

The Southern Midlands Council is not directly involved in the provision of childcare services. It provided an operational subsidy to the Station Childcare Centre as well as the Bagdad Community Child Care Centre both of which operate within the municipal area.

The Council also contributes to the Brighton Family Daycare for managing the family day care service that caters for the Southern Midlands.

In partnership with Communities for Children and other service providers, Council has assisted holding Community Family Fun Days at various venues over the past several years. In October 2012, a major activity day was held in the grounds of the Bagdad Community Club. Face painters, a huge Mobile Maze, PCYC games and activities, Lifeline BBQ van and much more were enjoyed by over 300 children and parents from all of the southern midlands' five schools and local residents. The Community Club Hall area was teeming with service provider stalls and the weather gods smiled down on the hugely successful day.

Council purchased, via a grant from Communities for Children, a Sumo Suit package aimed at entertaining and involving interaction between children and adults of all ages. Two smaller 'Batman' and 'Spiderman' suits are for the youngsters, whilst full size Sumo suits are available for older children and adults. The Suits, including all mats and protective gear, are available for hire to community groups or sporting clubs at very reasonable rates.

Reporting on the 2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: LIFESTYLE

2012-13 Achievements

2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

Volunteers

What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period

Encourage community members to volunteer.

Council is partnering with several programs and organisations to promote and develop safe and sustainable environments for our many volunteer administered sporting clubs to operate within.

Key actions:

- Ensure that there is support and encouragement for volunteering.
- Facilitate training programs aimed at providing volunteers with the necessary skills.
- Continue to support volunteers and their respective community groups through the Southern Midlands Community Small Grants Program.
- Work with Volunteering Tasmania to develop policies and frameworks that support volunteering throughout the Southern Midlands.

One of the outcomes was a successful grant application for almost \$25,000 from Sport & Recreation Tasmania, with similar cash and 'in kind' support from Council and the Campania Cricket Club. This enabled the installation of new practice nets at the Campania Recreation Ground. These nets replaced the old existing facility which had deteriorated to the level that made future use unsafe and restricted the capacity for more participation.

The nets have proven to be very popular among the Cricket Club members, adjacent school children and local residents alike, and have assisted the cricket club to better foster developing young players by way of vastly improved practice facilities.

Another area that Council is focussing on to create a safer environment for it's wonderful band of volunteers to operate is active promotion of both the "Real Mates " program conducted through the Department of Infrastructure , Energy and Resources and the "Good Sports" program which is supported by both the State and Federal Governments through the Australian Drug Foundation.

"Real Mates" is an initiative of the Road Safety Advisory Council which deals directly with education in regard to our drink driving laws offering such information as 'what is a standard drink' and the effect on driving performance at various blood/alcohol levels .

Reporting on the 2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

2012-13 Achievements

**STRATEGIC THEME:
LIFESTYLE**

2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

Volunteers (Continued)

“Good Sports” is a program aimed at responsible serving and cultural change in the way alcohol and drugs are dealt with at sporting clubs. Clubs can ‘sign up’ to be a part of this program and are provided with educational material and practical advice on how to evolve the culture and behavioural habits of the Club’s members into a safer environment. Clubs progress through three levels of attainment of improved standards and behaviours in a very practical and non- invasive process that will ultimately make for a better ‘workplace’ and an increased satisfaction of their ‘duty of care’ responsibilities .

The eighth round of the Southern Midlands Council’s Community Small Grants program was held during September 2012 and nine applications totalling \$26,258 in value of projects were received, with \$16,839 being funded to local community and sporting groups to assist them complete a variety of worthwhile programs, equipment and infrastructure projects. Projects as diverse as Goal Post protectors for the Mount Pleasant Football Club to a PA system for the Coal River Garden Club and an Arts Strategy Plan for a local Arts Group were funded in this year’s round.

The successful organisations being;

- *Woodsdale Football Club*
- *Oatlands District Historical Society*
- *Mount Pleasant Football Club*
- *Midland Initiative for Local Enterprise (2)*
- *Hobart Gun Club*
- *Colebrook Golf Club*
- *Coal River Garden Club*
- *Arts Strategy Working Group*

This is an effective and efficient way to financially assist worthy projects put forward by a variety of community groups and Clubs, and a rigorous and transparent application process ensures that the grant funds are well spent.

Reporting on the 2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

**STRATEGIC THEME:
LIFESTYLE**

2012-13 Achievements

2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

Access

What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period

Continue to explore transport options for the Southern Midlands community.

Continue to meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act.

Key actions:

- Be an advocate for improving transport services for those in need within the Community.
- Prepare and implement an access plan to meet the requirements of the DDA.
- Encourage organisations in the Southern Midlands to adopt the 'Access Card' system.

Council continues to make available a bus to the Midlands Multi-Purpose Health Centre for client transport.

The Recreation Committee has now had a name change to be the Facilities & Recreation Committee; this formally recognises the contribution that this Committee will have as the group responsible for the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) requirements across Council. The policy position was reviewed and a revised policy titled the "Disability Access and Inclusion Policy" was adopted by Council along with a draft Disability Access and Inclusion Plan and a DAIP Checklist. Council officers are working through a consultation process with the Community as well as Council Hall Committees

Reporting on the 2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: LIFESTYLE

2012-13 Achievements

2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

Public Health

What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period

Monitor and maintain a safe and healthy public environment.

Key actions:

- Continue to provide school immunisation programs.
- Continue to register and monitor food premises.
- Continue to ensure waste water is effectively disposed of.
- Encourage health professionals, including doctors and nurses, to move to the Southern Midlands.
- Provide continuing support to the Midlands Multi-Purpose Health Centre (MMPHC).
- Continually raise the awareness of Notifiable Diseases in the community.
- Maintain an emergency Management Plan for the Southern Midlands local government area that will provide safeguards for the health and safety of the Community.

Immunisation Programs conducted for school students at Oatlands, Kempton, Bagdad, Campania and Levendale in association with Council's Medical Officer of Health.

Oatlands Swimming Pool water quality tested in accordance with the Public Health Act – Water Quality Guidelines during the summer season.

Food premises and Places of Assembly monitored and licensed in accordance with statutory requirements.

Relevant legislative requirements are specified in:

- *Food Act 2003*
- *Food Safety Standards*
- *Public Health Act 1997 and associated Guidelines.*

Statutory licences issued for:

- *Food Premises – 53*
- *Places of Assembly – 18*
- *Water Carriers – 0 Note: there are 5 carriers licensed (licences renewable every three years).*
- *Special Event Licences – 9*
- *Private Water Licences – 0*

Reporting on the 2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: LIFESTYLE

2012-13 Achievements

2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

Recreation

What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period

Provide a range of recreational activities and services that meet the reasonable needs of the Community.

Key actions:

- Continue to Implement the Southern Midlands Recreation Plan.
- Identify opportunities to work in partnership with the Community and the State Government to improve recreational services and activities.
- Urgently seek opportunities to develop a Regional Aquatic Centre to replace the existing Oatlands Municipal Pool.
- Review the Tasmanian Trails Strategy to identify opportunities for the Southern Midlands.

Following the adoption of the Southern Midlands Recreation Plan (SMRP) in 2006, recommendations are progressively being refined and developed. The SMRP identified that a sport and recreation facilities master plan be adopted for each of the municipality's major towns and villages.

As part of the SMRP process the development of the Mangalore Recreation Ground has been progressed with more work undertaken on the playground with the inclusion of exercise equipment. The establishment of a Management Committee has been recommended given that Rural Youth and a Dog Club wished to also participate actively at the site along with the Pony/Horse Clubs already using the Mangalore Recreation Ground

The Memorandum of Understanding that Council entered into with the Bagdad Community Club, in recognition of the valuable services and resources provided to community members, continues to be a tangible manner in which Council can add value in the area.

Refer comments also provided under "Youth" Program.

Support of the Colebrook Cricket Club has been on Council's agenda and it is pleasing to see the level of commitment to the cricket ground by its local members and residents.

Reporting on the 2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

**STRATEGIC THEME:
LIFESTYLE**

2012-13 Achievements

2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

Recreation (Continued)

Midlands Aquatic & Recreation Centre – an alternative concept design was prepared during the reporting period, with the aim of reducing the overall capital development cost down to between \$4 to \$5 million dollars. The Pool Committee established by Council has driven this project and Architect Rick Bzowy has produced an excellent result through his and Council's public consultation processes. The project will be lodged as a Development Application within the first few months of the new financial year. Council continues to lobby both Australian and Tasmanian Government representatives to secure funding for the project.

Council has worked with the Campania Recreation Ground Management Committee to improve the facilities on the site, with the new cricket practice wickets to be formally launched by Rebecca White MP and the Executive Director of Sport & Recreation Tasmania (S&RT). This was made possible through funding support from Council and S&RT

In line with its Health & Wellbeing focus, Council adopted its Play Space Strategy which articulates the desired future character of Council recreation grounds and the manner in which they should cater for a wide range of family members and the activities that are appropriate to their respective ages. This Strategy also includes a Public Open Space (POS) development framework. Council have resolved to provide three elements in each POS i.e. shelter, equipment and tables/seating. When a new subdivision is constructed in the Southern Midlands and 25% of the lots are built upon, Council will in consultation with the local Community, install one of the aforementioned elements, when 50% of the lots are built on, Council install the next element into the POS, then when 75% of the lots are built on Council will install the final element.

Reporting on the 2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: LIFESTYLE

2012-13 Achievements

2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

Animals

What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period

Create an environment where animals are treated with respect and do not create a nuisance for the community.

Key actions:

- Continue dog control, regulatory, licensing and educational programs.
- Continue to conduct a public awareness / education program that informs the Community of the need to contain livestock and the associated legal requirements within available resources.
- Continue to provide and maintain stock pounds.

1,752 Dogs were registered, and 29 Kennels licenced in the 2012-13 financial year.

Council carried out and finalised in 2011 a comprehensive review of its Dog Management Policy adopted in 2009. This process involved extensive community consultation and provides an improved framework for management of dogs. The 2011 review required that the policy be again reviewed in July 2012 to ensure that it was meeting the needs of the Community and the Council. There were a range of improved resources that were developed, in the way of flow charts for Dog Complaint handling as well as information brochures to assist owners in the management of their animals.

There were a range of complaints received during the year and these were handled on an individual basis with the majority of them being successfully dealt with.

Reporting on the 2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: LIFESTYLE

2012-13 Achievements

2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

Education

What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period

Increase the educational and employment opportunities available within the Southern Midlands.

Key actions:

- Develop partnerships increasing educational opportunities within the Southern Midlands for the entire community, as well as recognising the principles of the “Child at the Centre” framework.
- Provide meaningful and informed input to education processes and systems.
- Provide heritage skills learning opportunities.
- Continue to work with the schools in the Southern Midlands to address and respond to reform initiatives in a positive manner together.

Council continues to work with the education sector to provide valuable Community and professional officer support to the schools in the Southern Midlands.

The Centre for Heritage and Conservation Restoration at Oatlands provides numerous educational opportunities relative to heritage projects and activities.

Council's Imagine Campania project continues to focus on the educational hub at Campania as a key component of its Community engagement and development strategy.

Retention

What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period

Maintain and strengthen communities in the Southern Midlands.

Key actions:

- Increase the ability of the ageing population to remain in their communities.
- Increase the opportunities for young people to remain in, or return to, the local communities they grew up in.

Council works very effectively with Community groups and organisations to assist in building their capacity in delivering a wide range of service/support throughout the Southern Midlands.

Reporting on the 2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: **COMMUNITY**

2012-13 Achievements

2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

Capacity & Sustainability

What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period

Build the capacity of the Community to help itself and embrace the framework & strategies articulated by the Social Inclusion Commissioner to achieve sustainability.

Key actions:

- Support community groups who wish to run and/or develop community based facilities.
- Support community groups who wish to run and/or develop community based events.
- Continue to provide funding opportunities for community groups through the Southern Midlands Community Small Grants Program.
- Provide support to community groups to access grants from a wide range of sources.
- Provide support to the community groups in their establishment and ongoing development.
- Provide support to the community in addressing major impacts that affect the ability of the community to work cohesively together.

Council works closely with a number of community based organisations and groups, and provides both 'in-kind' and financial assistance to run community events and activities. It also has a primary role in building their capacity, through good governance and strategic planning support.

The on-going support of the Community Men's Shed is one practical example of this Community capacity building approach. Council are also part of the State Men's Shed Association and support a volunteer from our shed to be an office bearer on the Association

Council has an extensive database for the majority of Community groups. Grant alerts from external organisations are circulated to all database members to ensure that they are able to determine their applicability

Council continues to energetically support Community groups in the Southern Midlands like Midlands Initiative for Local Enterprise Inc. (MILE), Imagine Campania Inc., Rural Alive & Well Inc., Bagdad Community Club Inc. and many more. Council's Deputy General Manager, Andrew Benson was asked to present a paper at the National Community Safety Conference in Melbourne during the year and his paper show cased the antisocial issues that Council had experienced at Campania and the emergence of Imagine Campania Inc. as a really positive result and influence within the Community.

'Midlands Matters' the service provider and community group networking meetings on a monthly basis are adding significant value to the community and continue to be strongly supported.

Reporting on the 2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

**STRATEGIC THEME:
COMMUNITY**

2012-13 Achievements

2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

Capacity & Sustainability (Continued)

Council works with and supports Family Fun Days, and similar Community engagement activities in partnership with Communities for Children, the Rural Primary Health Service and other valued service providers in the region.

Council continues to provide an operating subsidy to the Southern Midlands Community Radio Station Inc.

A funding mechanism within the Council's Facilities & Recreation Committee has been established to assist Community Owned Halls with major refurbishment of their sites, of course subject to certain conditions. This was established in recognition that Community Owned Halls fulfil a tremendous role in rural Communities with local engagement and social inclusion as a key outcome.



Reporting on the 2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: **COMMUNITY**

2012-13 Achievements

2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

Safety

What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period

Increase the level of safety of the community and those visiting or passing through the municipality.

Key actions:

- Continue to support the development of Community based policing initiatives such as "Neighbourhood Watch".
- Work in partnership with the Police to reduce the incidence of crime in the Southern Midlands.
- Maintain a Southern Midlands Emergency Management Plan and review every two years.
- Convene the Disaster Management Committee twice per year.
- Continue to support the Road Accident Rescue Unit in partnership with the State Emergency Service.
- In partnership, with the Community develop Community Safety Initiatives.

The Southern Midlands Road Rescue Unit had 53 call-outs involving 446.75 operational hours during the 2012-13 period. This is an increase in the number of incidents (47 incidents in 2011-12) and an increase in operational hours (278.25 operational hours in 2011/12) during the prior period. The Unit, which has three rescue vehicles, continues to operate from both Oatlands and Kempton.

The Southern Midlands Emergency Management Planning Committee did not meet during the reporting period.

The Southern Midlands Emergency Management Plan (based on a template developed by the State Emergency Service) is due for review in 2013/14.

The Oatlands based Ambulance continues to operate in accordance with the Deed of Agreement between the Tasmanian Ambulance Service, the Department of Health and Human Services (Primary Health) and the Southern Midlands Council.



Reporting on the 2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: COMMUNITY

2012-17 Achievements

2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

Consultation

What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period

Improve the effectiveness of consultation with the Community.

Four (4) Ordinary Meetings of Council were held in the following areas during the summer period:

Campania, Broadmarsh, Tunbridge and Levendale.

Key actions:

- Continue to schedule Council meetings in the various districts of the municipality.
- Monitor emerging trends in Community engagement.

Council officers have developed a consultation policy and associated information that will be the benchmark for community consultation.

Communication

What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period

Improve the effectiveness of communication with the Community.

Four newsletters were issued during 2012-13.

Council has fully developed its new website (www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au) This was identified as a major priority over this year as a core component of Council's Business Process Improvement Strategy.

Key actions:

- Continue to issue the quarterly Council newsletter for residents and ratepayers.
- Continue to develop and maintain an "up-to-date" website.
- Embrace innovative approaches to improving communications e.g. Community radio and 'New Media'.

The Community & Corporate Development business unit, as well as other business units, have worked with Mid FM Community Radio in providing content and interviews on topical matters of interest to the community.

Reporting on the 2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: ORGANISATION

2012-13 Achievements

2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

Improvement

What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period

Improve the level of responsiveness to Community needs.

Improve communication within Council.

Improve the accuracy, comprehensiveness and user friendliness of the Council asset management system.

Increase the effectiveness, efficiency and use-ability of Council ICT systems.

Develop an overall Continuous Improvement Strategy and framework.

Key actions:

- Maintain a comprehensive automated work order/public enquiry system as well as a complaints system.
- Improve and maintain the Council web site.
- Maintain an up to date profile of the municipal area to assist in identifying community needs.
- Maintain an effective staff performance appraisal system that provides staff with recognition for their achievements.
- Maintain a regular communication briefing to all staff.
- Continue to develop and implement a Council's asset management system.
- Continue the Business Process Improvement Program operating with Council.

The work order / public enquiry system titled Service Requests has been automated with the new Records Management system along with reporting to Council on a monthly basis. This process is initiated via the Home Page of the SMC website www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au

Council continues to modify its new web site www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au. To meet the needs of the Community. Key components added this year comprise, a Community Calendar, Community Notice Board along with the refinement of all sections on the site. This initiative of a creative and engaging portal was identified as a major priority and a core component of Council's Business Process Improvement Strategy. The website handles a Community profile component at a number of levels, from local information through to ABS data.

The staff performance appraisal system, now known as Council's Development Review process continues to be an extremely useful mechanism for the exploration of positive team relationships and innovations for better service delivery to our Community.

Regular staff briefings are conducted at all Council locations.

The computerised asset management system for the Transport Infrastructure components of Council's asset base that was purchased last year has been further developed to add value to Council's management of its assets

The Geographical Information System (GIS) data held by Council has continued to be improved in association with the user interface. This is system now integrates with the asset management system as well as Council finance system.

Reporting on the 2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: **ORGANISATION**

2012-13 Achievements

2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

Improvement (continued)

- Develop a strategy to increase the user-friendliness of the finance module.
- Identify new IT training needs of staff and seek opportunities to enhance their skills.
- Continue the Business Process Improvement Program established within Council.

A range of policies have been implemented around finance and integrity. It must be emphasised that there has not been any incident within Council's systems that have been compromised, but rather these measures are a proactive set of documents that guide best practice and document procedures within the organisation. They comprise of the following;

1. Code of Conduct for Councillors, Employees and Volunteers
2. Fraud Control Policy, including
 - a. Fraud Control Investigation Procedure
 - b. Fraud Prevention Strategy
 - c. Fraud Detection & Risk Management Strategy
3. Gifts and Benefits Policy
4. Public Interest Disclosures Act 2002 – Procedures

An audit & review of Council's Information Communication Technology (ICT) systems and procedures is scheduled for late 2013.

A Business Continuity Policy has been developed in case disaster recovery becomes an issue for Council.

These system improvements have been core components in Council's Business Process Improvement Program

Council's new information communication systems have required new skill sets to be established by Council team members and continues to increase the efficiency / effectiveness of Council's operations.

Reporting on the 2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: ORGANISATION

2012-13 Achievements

2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

Sustainability

What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period

Retain corporate and operational knowledge within Council.

Provide a safe and healthy working environment.

Ensure that staff and elected members have the training and skills they need to undertake their roles.

Increase the cost effectiveness of Council operations through resource sharing with other organisations.

Continue to maintain and improve the level of statutory compliance of Council operations.

Ensure that suitably qualified and sufficient staff are available to meet the community's needs.

Work co-operatively with State and Regional organisations.

Minimise Councils exposure to risk.

Key actions:

- Establish an appropriate quality assurance system for Council.
- Review the appropriateness of employing entry level employees through formal training arrangements.
- Monitor the need for a new Oatlands Works Depot.

The corporation is made up of nine Councillors elected by ratepayers and residents of the municipal area. Elections have traditionally been held every two years, with half the Councillors retiring at each election. Elections for the position of Mayor and Deputy Mayor are held at the same time every two years.

The next election, scheduled for October 2013, has been deferred to October 2014, where the following reforms will be introduced:

- *Elections will be held every four years, with all Councillors being up for re-election (i.e. all in – all out); and*
- *A person will not be able to hold a seat on Council and in State Parliament at the same time.*

Compulsory voting will not be introduced for local government elections.

Council holds monthly ordinary meetings on the fourth Wednesday of the month.

In accordance with the Local Government 1993, Council reviewed its Strategic Plan – revised Plan entitled 'Strategic Plan 2012 to 2017.

Council continuously monitors its risk exposure in both day to day activities as well as on a project by project basis.

Council actively participates in both regional and sub-regional forums. The Southern Tasmanian Council's Authority (STCA) represents all 12 southern Tasmanian Councils and undertakes a range of activities on behalf of the region.

Reporting on the 2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: ORGANISATION

2012-13 Achievements

2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan
Over the next five years Council will:

Sustainability (continued)

Key Strategies and actions:

- Review the risks associated with the current accommodation at Oatlands.
- Provide regular updates in respect of legislation and best practice OH & S to all Council team members.
- Develop a program of education and training to support elected members in the role.
- Develop a program of training for staff to ensure that they have the training and skills they need to undertake their jobs.
- Identify opportunities for resource sharing with other Councils.
- Identify and implement working relationships with the Councils in our sub region across a wide range of operational and support areas.
- Undertake an annual 'in-house' review of statutory compliance, including a review of delegations.
- Review staffing levels at performance appraisal time.
- Continue to participate in State and Regional forums, including the Southern Tasmanian Councils Board, LGAT, as well as others.
- Continue to refine Council's Risk Management Strategy/Practices and work within the framework of the MAV Insurance risk management model.

Risk Management - Staff continue to invest considerable time and effort in implementing Council's Risk Management Strategy. Regular inspections of Council assets are undertaken to identify (and rectify) any potential risks. Suitability assessments have been undertaken of all Council's sporting grounds and facilities.

Staff development is a key strategy in continuing to provide exceptional service to our clients. Whilst the training budget is quite small it continues to be invested in a wise and timely manner across the spectrum of Council's responsible areas.

Elected members have participated in a number of workshops to increase skills and knowledge to support them in their role (e.g. LGAT workshops, 'in-house' workshops).

Reporting on the 2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: ORGANISATION

2012-13 Achievements

2012 to 2017 Strategic Plan

Finance

What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period

Maintain current levels of community equity.

Major borrowings for infrastructure will reflect the intergenerational nature of the assets created.

Council will retain a minimum cash balance to cater for extra-ordinary circumstances.

Operating expenditure will be maintained in real terms and expansion of services will be funded by re-allocation of service priorities or an increase in rates.

Sufficient revenue will be raised to sustain the current level of community and infrastructure services.

Key actions:

- Fund depreciation at 75% to 80% from 2012 then aim to increase this level thereafter.
- Implement the Southern Midlands Council Financial Management Strategy.
- Seek opportunities to develop and sell Council land.
- Allow for the acquisition or disposal of land where it is in the public interest and where there is a demonstrated community benefit.
- Maximise the opportunities for Council to invest in opportunities that support this Strategic Plan.

The 2012-13 General Purpose Financial Statement forms part of this Annual Report. An unqualified Audit Report has been issued by the Tasmanian Auditor General.

Total equity increased by \$2,834K, primarily due to a revaluation of non-current assets (i.e. roads and bridges) which increased asset values by \$2,661K.

The preparation of Asset Management Plans has been a priority, with the initial plan relating to Transport Infrastructure basically completed. An Asset Management Plan for Buildings is the next focus for 2013/14. The financial components of these Plans will be integrated into Council's Long Term Financial Management Strategy. This will provide a clear understanding of Council's financial position and its ability to manage its assets on a sustainable basis.

Council, through its newly established Audit and Risk Committee, reviewed and updated the long-term Financial Management Strategy / Plan which extends through to 2021/22.

Reporting on Legislative Requirements

In alphabetical order, following are the reports that Council is required to provide under various legislation for the 2012/2013 financial year:

Allowances and Expenses Statement

(Under the *Local Government Act 1993*)

In 2012/2013 Council provided allowances and reimbursements for reasonable expenses to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors. This included telephone rental, telephone calls and travelling.

Allowances \$114,282

Expenses \$22,159

Attendance at Council and Council Committee Meetings Statement

(Under the *Local Government Act 1993*)

Twelve (12) regular Council meetings were held during the year, not including the Annual General Meeting which was held on the 12th of December 2012.

There were three (3) meetings of Council's Southern Midlands Recreation Committee, being the only Council Committee established in accordance with section 23 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

	Ordinary Council Meetings Held	Ordinary Council Meetings Attended	Special Meeting	Annual General Meeting	Southern Midlands Recreation Committee Meetings Held	Southern Midlands Recreation Committee Meetings Attended
Mayor Tony Bisdee OAM	12	10	N/A	1	N/A	N/A
Deputy Mayor Mark Jones OAM	12	10	N/A	1	3	3
Clr A R Bantick	12	11	N/A	1	N/A	N/A
Clr Colin Beven	12	12	N/A	1	3	3
Clr Bob Campbell	12	12	N/A	1	N/A	N/A
Clr Marie Connors	12	10	N/A	1	3	2
Clr Don Fish	12	12	N/A	1	3	3
Clr Alex Green	12	12	N/A	1	N/A	N/A
Clr J L Jones OAM	12	11	N/A	1	(proxy) 3	1

Reporting on Legislative Requirements

Contracts

In accordance with Section 23(5) of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2005*, Council is required to report on contracts for the supply or provision of goods and services in excess of \$100,000 (excl. GST) entered into during the year to 30th June 2013.

Contactor Name & Address	Description of Contract	Value of Contract (excl. GST)	Period of Contract (plus extension options if applicable)
Andrew Walters Construction	Road pavement rehabilitation / stabilisation	\$244,594	N/A
Roadways Pty Ltd	Sealing Program 2012-13	\$247,391	N/A

Donation of Land Statement

(Under the *Local Government Act 1993*)

Section 72 (1) (da) requires Council to report on details of any land donated by Council during the year.

Council made no such donations of land.

Enterprise Power Statement

(Under the *Local Government Act 1993*)

Section 72 (1) (ca) requires Council to provide a statement of activities and performance of the Council in relation to any activity undertaken pursuant to section 21 of the *Local Government Act 1993* 'Enterprise Powers'.

During 2010/11, the Southern Midlands Council established two separate entities associated with the creation of the Centre for Colonial Heritage Conservation and Restoration:

- c) a proprietary company which will operate the 'Services Arm' – Heritage Building Solutions Pty Ltd – commenced operation 19/7/10; and
- d) a company limited by guaranteed to operate the 'Education Arm' – Heritage Education and Skills Centre Ltd – commenced operation 28/7/2010.

The purpose of the respective Companies are as follows:

Heritage Building Solutions Pty Ltd

To commercially provide building services, primarily to the heritage property sector and to conserve and renovate heritage property for re-use.

Annual Report 2012-2013

This includes:

- Conservation & Restoration Building Works;
- Professional Services Brokering;
- Heritage Building Redevelopment;
- Building services to Southern Midlands Council;
- Commercial building services;
- Production of architectural fittings; and
- Joinery workshop production items.

Heritage Education and Skills Centre Ltd

To promote and facilitate the conservation and restoration of heritage properties and the development and the application of associated knowledge and skills.

This includes:

- Education and training - Apprentice and post trade training; Field work and structured experience; Property owner training; Professional training; and Visitor education.
- Research into - Conservation & Restoration Techniques; Building re-use technologies and best practice; Heritage/Archaeology; and Interpretation.
- Funding Heritage conservation and restoration activities – sourcing external funds and gifts”

The financial performance of these entities are reported in the set of Financial Statements.

Remuneration Statement

(Under the *Local Government Act 1993*)

The following table provides the remuneration for those positions designated by Council as senior positions, as required under the *Local Government Act 1993*. The positions of General Manager, Manager – Development and Environmental Services, Manager – Community and Corporate Development, Manager – Works and Technical Services and Manager – Corporate Services have been defined as senior positions by the Southern Midlands Council.

Remuneration Band	Number of Positions
\$ 81,000 - \$100,000	2
\$101,000 - \$120,000	1
\$121,000 - \$140,000	1
\$141,000 - \$160,000	1

Reporting on Community Involvement

2012/2013 Grants and Assistance

Recipient	Amount
Broadmarsh/Elderslie Progress Association	\$ 337.34
Ms Meg Lowe	\$ 100.00
Mr Robbie Walker	\$ 100.00
Ms Emma Watkins	\$ 100.00
Brighton Family Day Care	\$ 5,000.00
Heritage Highway Association	\$12,000.00
MILE	\$ 3,636.36
ODFA Sponsorship 2012	\$ 115.00
Kempton Primary School	\$ 50.00
Bagdad Primary School	\$ 50.00
Campania District High School	\$ 150.00
Oatlands District High School	\$ 150.00
Levendale Primary School	\$ 50.00
Mt Pleasant Football Club	\$ 1,440.00
Remove & Install New Honour Rolls	\$ 1,100.00
M.I.L.E – September Grants	\$ 2859.09
Greater Green Ponds	\$ 2,227.27
Oatlands District Historical Society	\$ 1,508.00
Mr Colby Dodge	\$ 100.00
Mr M Walker	\$ 100.00
Colebrook Golf Club	\$ 2,727.27
Levendale Cricket Club	\$ 1,000.00
Runnymede Cricket Club	\$ 1,000.00
Woodsdale Football Club	\$ 2,000.00
Colebrook On-Line Access Centre	\$ 364.00
Oatlands Bowls Club	\$ 276.05
Oatlands District High School Raffle - Family Pool Pass	\$ 85.00
SES Unit - Heart Foundation	\$ 250.00
Spring Festival Management Committee	\$ 909.09
Kempton Festival Management Committee (Incl. In-kind)	\$ 3,467.68
Coal River Garden Club	\$ 348.00
Hobart Gun Club	\$ 2,948.00
Relay for Life 2013 "The Oatlands Off Spring"	\$ 50.00
Callington Mill Promotions	\$ 176.04
Bowls Club/Pageant	\$ 50.00
Mr Luke Foster	\$ 100.00
Victoria Hall Management Committee	\$ 481.40
Campania DHS - Global Youth Leaders Conference New York	\$ 200.00
Bagdad Childcare Centre	\$ 4,750.00
Tunbridge Hall Management Committee	\$ 5,000.00