



Newsletter

Issue 3 | August 2021



MAYORS REPORT

It is difficult to accept that a new financial year has arrived. It of course follows, that Council has completed the annual budgeting process, which includes setting the Rates and Charges for 2021/22.

Ratepayers will recall that in recognition of the challenges and difficulties associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, Council adopted a 0% increase in the General Rate for the 2020/21 period. A similar Zero percentage increase in the General Rate has also been adopted this financial year, however, it has been necessary to increase the standard Waste Management Charge levied on all properties, plus the annual charge for the household collection service (if this service is provided to your property).

These increases are required as a result of higher costs associated with the transport and disposal of waste at landfill; the substantial increase in the 'gate charges' for deposit of recyclables; and the need to achieve full cost recovery for the Waste Management Program. In the past, a certain amount has been subsidised by the General Rate and from a policy perspective, Council was keen to eliminate this cross subsidy.

In terms of the General Rate, it should be noted that whilst Council has not changed the number of cents to be charged in each dollar of the Assessed Annual Value, the amount payable by individual properties may vary depending on the classification (e.g. Primary Production; Residential; Commercial etc.). These variations are due to the introduction of differential rating in 2019/20, which was necessary following the issue of adjustment factors to the Assessed Annual Values by the Valuer-General which took effect from 1st July 2019. In the absence of introducing differential rating, substantial increases would have been imposed on the owners of both Primary Production and Residential properties. The adjustments made in 2021/22 is aimed at minimising the level of differentiation between classifications prior to the receipt of fresh property valuations which will take affect from 1 July 2022.

In regard to the 2021/22 Budget, total income for the year is estimated to be \$14.60 million, which includes an estimated \$3.06 million in Capital Grants. Total operating expenditure is approximately \$12.0 million (includes \$3 million for asset depreciation). Some \$7.5 million (not including carry forward projects) is allocated for Capital Works projects and these are listed as a separate item in this Newsletter.

Oatlands Bargain Centre

At the time of writing this Newsletter item, I have been informed that the Oatlands Bargain Centre has just

distributed the profits from its 2020/21 trading activities. This organisation is totally managed and operated by volunteers and profits are distributed based on the number of hours dedicated by each volunteer and the organisation that is nominated by each volunteer to benefit from their input. A total of \$28,893.28 was distributed to 11 different organisations. Total volunteer hours worked was 2,475, meaning that each volunteer hour was valued at \$11.67 per hour. What a magnificent achievement by this dedicated group of volunteers.

Covid-19

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the community for its strong, active response to the COVID-19 Vaccination Program. One cannot overstate the importance of supporting this critical public health initiative. I also thank everyone for continuing to maintain safe hygiene and social distancing measures. I encourage everyone to maintain vigilance in combating this virus that is currently ravaging many communities elsewhere in Australia, and of course, overseas.

Clr Alex Green
MAYOR

SOUTHERN MIDLANDS COMMUNITY SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM 2021

The Community is advised that Council's Community Small Grants Program 2021 opened on Tuesday 3 August 2021 and closes at 4.00 pm on Monday 30 August 2021.

The Community Grants program recognises the important role our community groups and sporting clubs play in connecting people and positively shaping our region. The program has been established to support projects, programs and activities that benefit the residents of the Southern Midlands.

Grant application forms and guidelines were available from Tuesday 3 August 2021 on Council's website www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au or hard copies can be obtained by calling into the Council's offices Oatlands or Kempton. For further information please contact Andrew Benson on 6254 5050 or via email. abenson@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au

Property & Rates

Would you like to receive your property & rates notice by email?



Simply email us your name and property details to: mail@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au

CAPITAL BUDGET PROJECTS – 2021/2022

Council has allocated a total of \$7,527,016 million in Capital Works for the 2020/21 financial year. Some of this funding is financed through grants from both Federal and State Governments. This amount does not include projects which have been delayed and carried forward from the previous financial year.

ROADS PROGRAM	
Gravel Roads – resheeting program	\$ 800,000
Sealed Roads – resealing program	\$ 400,000
Road Reconstruction Projects:	
Woodsdale Rd, Woodsdale (700m)	\$ 115,500
Stonor Rd, Stonor (1000m)	\$ 165,000
York Plains Rd, York Plains (pavement failures 500m)	\$ 82,500
South Parade, Oatlands (inc. kerb, gutter & footpath)	\$ 170,000
Construct & Seal (unsealed Roads):	
Huntington Tier Rd, Bagdad (400m)	\$ 84,000
Green Valley Rd, Bagdad (650m)	\$ 136,500
Ballyhooly Rd, Mangalore (500m)	\$ 96,250
Lower Marshes Rd, Lower Marshes (750m)	\$ 144,375
Eldon Rd, Tunnack (1.1km)	\$ 231,000
Minor Seals (new):	
Dust Suppressant	\$40,000
Junctions / Road Realignment / Other:	
Junction Green Valley & Huntingdon Tier Rds, Bagdad (reconstruct & seal 250m)	\$ 45,000
Junction Reeve & Climie Sts, Campania (kerb, gutter & footpath)	\$ 200,000
Bridges:	
York Plains Rd (Kitty's Rivulet)	\$ 60,000
Interlaken Rd (Dulverton Rivulet - widening)	\$ 42,218
Drainage:	
Blackbrush Rd, Bagdad (kerb, gutter & footpath)	\$ 430,000
Hall Lane, Bagdad (stormwater pipelines)	\$ 75,000

NOTE: For a full listing of the 2021/22 Capital Expenditure Program Budget & Projects please go to:

www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au/annual-plan-budgets/

WALKWAYS / STREETScape	
Footpaths (General)	\$ 55,000
Midland Highway, Bagdad (walking path upgrade 500m)	\$ 50,000
Main St, Kempton (footpath renewal in two sections, including kerb & gutter)	\$ 330,032
Main St, Kempton (footpath renewal southern end)	\$ 60,000
Old Huntingground Rd, Kempton (footpath, school crossing)	\$ 27,000
Wellington St, Oatlands (footpath renewal High St to Infant School Carpark)	\$ 24,225
Wellington St, Oatlands (footpath renewal Anstey Crt to High St incl. kerb & gutter)	\$ 54,000
Stanley St, Oatlands (footpath renewal High St to Marlborough St)	\$ 43,000
Church St, Oatlands (footpath renewal High St to Esplanade)	\$ 28,800
Main St, Tunbridge (ongoing footpath, kerb & gutter renewal)	\$ 20,000
HERITAGE	
Court House, Oatlands (wall restoration)	\$ 15,000
Gaol, Oatlands (wingwall restoration)	\$ 8,000
RECREATION / COMMUNITY	
Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary, Bagdad (Wombat Walk)	\$ 39,250
Bagdad Community Club (precinct plan)	\$ 25,000
Kempton Recreation Ground (site development and playground equipment)	\$ 25,000
Oatlands Community Hall (maintenance plan)	\$ 51,300
Midlands Community Memorial Centre, Oatlands (roof & insulation)	\$ 39,000
Callington Park, Oatlands (seating, lighting & surveillance)	\$ 13,000
Stanley Street, Oatlands (Master Plan)	\$ 20,000
Off-Lead Dog Park, Kempton	\$ 43,125
Memorial Avenue, Jericho (Plaques, stage one of two)	\$ 20,000
Memorial Avenue Park, Kempton (Interpretations, stage one of two)	\$ 20,000



Council at work in the Community

Oatlands Aquatic Centre

The Oatlands Aquatic Centre is progressing at a steady pace and we are still on target for Practical Completion on the 4th March 2022.

Over recent weeks there has been a concrete pour of in excess of 73m³ and the structural steel has been erected to frame the entry roof structures. Over the coming weeks, more structural steel will be delivered and erected, large structural wall panels will be delivered on site, then comes the roof panels, followed by the roof cladding.

Council's David Richardson, Manager Infrastructure & Work, Craig Whatley, Senior Works Coordinator are preparing with the Council Team to start the stormwater construction works, followed by the carpark construction, then the landscaping.

In addition to these works, the subdivision of a parcel of land at the rear of the site which fronts South Parade has received its Planning Permit, with services about to be installed. The design for the reconstruction of South Parade is nearing completion to enable the construction works to be completed by the Council team to coincide with the Practical Completion of the Oatlands Aquatic Centre.

Entry structure framing, viewed from the rear of the site



Kempton's Victoria War Memorial Hall

Funding from the Australian Government has played a major role in the refurbishment of the Hall. The Kempton Streetscape Committee has provided direction to project managers Maria Weeding and Helen Geard for the development of this project. It combines the efforts of Works Coordinator Paul Lang and his Kempton field workforce team, along with the artisans from Heritage Building Solutions Pty Ltd, undertaking the building works for the Project. The sensitively designed external seating, the portico, the universal access and the paved area all provide an elegant transformation to this well-loved 'Grand Old Lady' in the centre of the Village. There is a very strong theme & connection through the Village, between the partially completed Memorial Park which is on land generously gifted to Council by Tim and Tania Hoskinson, then across to Memorial Avenue, then to the historic WW1 Memorial Arch in front of the Council Chambers and then culminating at the Victoria War Memorial Hall, where the Sub Branch of the RSL is integral to the Hall. These strong connections reinforce the amazing sense of Community at times of adversity and how the Community comes together

to support our way of life. The Hall is the centre of that Community spirit and it is appropriate that we recognise that this "Grand Old Lady" has played a major role in the health and wellbeing of the Green Ponds Community over many, many years and it is time for us to rejuvenate her and provide the accoutrements that reinforce that well-earned grandeur.

It is also acknowledged that funding to bring the Memorial Arch Clock back to its former glory is also underway.



The before and after images.

Oatlands Underground Power Project


This project was developed for the undergrounding of the overhead power lines around the Oatlands Historic Precinct, along the Esplanade and Barrack Street in Oatlands. It was made possible through a major grant from the Australian Government, with Council contributing funding from its capital works program to the construction of the Project. The Project comprises Stages 1, 2 and 3. Stage 1 was from the entrance to Callington Mill on the Esplanade to the junction of Barrack Street. Stage 2 was from the end of Stage 1 to the junction of Barrack Street and Mason Street. Stage 3 will be commencing shortly to encapsulate the balance of Barrack Street and most of Mason Street.

There is certainly a noticeable difference to the amenity of the streetscape when you look at 'before and after' images. Stage 2 completed is shown in the image below and the yet to start, Stage 3 is shown alongside. It isn't until the poles and wires are removed that you realise this 'clutter in the fabric of the streetscape'. Energy supply is crucial to our way of life in a village and with this Project we will deliver the best of both worlds. With the Australian Government's and TasNetworks support, Council works Team of former Manager Infrastructure & Works, Jack Lyall, Senior Works Coordinator Craig Whatley and the Oatlands crew it has been a wonderful Project that shows how Federal Government, State Government and Local Government can deliver amazing, high quality Projects that add significant value to the day-to-day environment that we live in, as well as expand the visitor experience in this unique historic village of ours. Well done to the Team with the Project to date, when Stage 3 is completed this will be a credit to all who have been involved



Further information contact Andrew Benson, Deputy General Manager.

For the latest Council news visit:

www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au or like us on Facebook 

Campania Consultation

In 2015 Council, in conjunction with the local community, undertook a substantial project to create a Structure Plan for the township of Campania. This set a number of strategies and initiatives in place for the town, for example; the parameters for the future development of the former school farm and the (recently funded and soon to be implemented) improvements to the car park and bus stop facility near the corner of Climie Street and Reeve Street.

Another initiative was the idea of Council subdividing land on the southern side of Native Corners Road, above Water Lane, with the net sale proceeds being used to fund improvements in the town. Plans for the subdivision of the land have progressed to draft stage by Council officers with input from Council's consultant engineer and surveyor.

In addition to the possible subdivision, the recent major upgrade of the accessible walkway in the bush reserve, which was made possible by a grant funded by the Australian Government has created a higher level of interest in the area. Also, there is potential need to improve the cemetery and columbarium. There have also been calls from some members of the community for an off-lead dog space in the area.

All the above mentioned issues were combined into a draft 'master plan' for the area for the purposes of community consultation. On 12 May 2021, a 'drop-in session' was held at the Memorial Hall from 2:00pm to 7:00pm. Approximately 34 members of the community attended. Feedback can be summarised as quite positive and supportive (detailed information is included in the Council Minutes of the May 2021 Council meeting which are available on Council website).

for further information contact Andrew Benson, Deputy General Manager or Damian Mackey, Special Projects Officer



Damian Mackey, Special Projects Officer and Community member, Mick Gangell discussing the Master Plan, during the Community Consultation forum at the Campania War Memorial Hall.

Campania Bush Reserve

Senator Clare Chandler and Mayor Alex Green cutting the ribbon at the official opening of the Campania Bush Reserve Shared Pathway.



Frequently asked question: Do I need a building permit?

You do not need a permit or approval for low risk work, however you may require planning approval. ... High risk work (permit work) involves commercial, industrial or public buildings and residential buildings that require a planning permit, as well as owner builder work and most works in hazardous areas.

Information for Dog Owners & Dog Walkers



Dog owners and walkers enjoy numerous health and social benefits by walking their dogs and a regular walk is vitally important for your pet's health too. Unfortunately, there are a small number of dog owners who are not cleaning up after their dogs. Poo is simply being left on the ground for people to view or accidentally step into it.

Council has installed a number of 'Dog Poo Waste Bag' dispensers and bins in various locations and people are strongly encouraged to use these.

In addition, it is planned to install additional dispensers and bins in key locations where there is regular dog walking activities.

Should you be aware of a location where a 'Dog Poo Waste Bag' dispenser and bin is warranted, please contact Council's Animal Control Officer (Rachel Collis) on 62 545054 during office hours and the aim is to install these over a period of time.

Note:

- ◆ Should you find a 'Dog Poo Waste Bag' dispenser that is empty, please notify the Council on the same number.
- ◆ It is an offence under the Dog Control Act 2000 not to immediately remove and dispose of any faeces left by a dog in a public place or in a place not owned, or leased, by the person.

Realignment of Bluff Road Junction with Elderslie Road

Responding to community representations, Council sought funding through the Australian Government’s road safety Black Spot Program for a grant to enable these concerns to be addressed. There were a range of factors that supported the works: - the junction of Bluff Road and Elderslie Road provided a very challenging exit path for vehicles leaving Bluff Road; - ten to twelve school students waiting for the school bus on the edge of a verge; - and the location of the community letter box was also a significant safety issue.

This was initially raised by the Broadmarsh & Elderslie Progress Association and supported by a number of residents of Bluff Road.

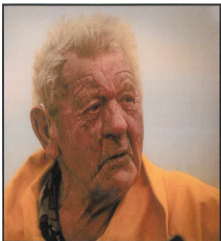
Officers from the State Department of State Growth were also very supportive of the grant application which resulted in the grants funds being allocated and works are well under way.

A Bus Shelter donated by the Brighton Rotary Club will also be installed at this location.



Council’s Manager Infrastructure & Works (David Richardson) and Works Coordinator (Paul Lang), along with their works team, are bringing this project to reality in a well-considered and efficient manner – well done to all of the team.

Vale – Richard Henry Lang



Ritchie was a long serving senior employee of the Southern Midlands and the previous Green Ponds Councils. Whilst his local government service extended for a period of 42 years, Ritchie was also heavily involved in a number of sporting; emergency management; and community activities.

He was recognised and referred to as a true gentlemen, evidenced by the fact that hundreds attended his funeral held at Kempton 27th July 2021.

Members of the Tasmanian Fire Service formed a guard of honour to acknowledge his 53 years’ service with the Kempton Fire Brigade (commencing after the disastrous 1967 bushfires), 44 of which were as Brigade Captain. He continued as a serving member until his passing.

Our sincere condolences are extended to Lesley and family at this very sad time. R.I.P.

Introducing Council Team Member –

David Richardson



David joined Council in the role as Manager Infrastructure & Works in late April 2021. He brings with him a wide range of experience in Local Government at a senior management level in works & infrastructure; in the State Government supervising road maintenance contracts; and horticulture in the private sector.

David’s prior position was the Manager Works & Infrastructure at George Town Council, where he received the Manager of the Year Award in 2020.

Working in rural Councils is one of David’s many strengths, and he lists his hobbies as fishing, hunting along with outdoor recreation.

David’s comments and observations so far:

“The Southern Midlands Community is a very diverse municipal area that is home to a great number of passionate and community minded people. Despite covering a large area, the community could be described as very tight knit”.

“I would like to acknowledge the fantastic work that Jack Lyall has achieved over many years in this role. As a dedicated employee that is heavily involved in the community activities, he has certainly left big boots to fill.”

Could your easy living home be with us?

Oatlands District Homes Association Inc.



ODHA offers independent living options for people over 60 years of age.

For over 40 years we have been providing housing to people in the Southern Midlands.

Our not for profit voluntary organisation has been able to secure sufficient money to finance the building or purchase of 23 properties in Oatlands.

Interested in learning more?

Ring us to obtain an easy to complete one page application form .

All expressions of interest from prospective tenants are reviewed by a selection committee and considered when a vacancy occurs.

All properties are:

- Within reach of the main health services in Oatlands
- Fully maintained
- Attract a lower rent than the market demands

The process is very straight forward, call us for a chat and we can answer your questions

- Contact Administration Officer, Karen Dudgeon 0428 361 807
- Or President Bridget Walch 0408 586 140

The Southern Midlands of Tasmania is where a blend of good old fashioned values and modern ideas co-exist. The Southern Midlands Council is a rural local government authority with approximately 3800 rateable properties and 6000 persons scattered throughout the districts.

Towns & localities include *Mangalore, Pontville, Bagdad, Broadmarsh, Elderslie, Dysart, Kempton, Melton Mowbray, Oatlands, Tunbridge, Tunnack, Parattah, Mt Seymour, Woodsdale, Levendale, Runnymede, Colebrook, Campania & Rekuna.*

CONTACT US

OATLANDS OFFICE 71 High Street, Oatlands 7120
General Managers Unit; Corporate Services, Infrastructure & Works,
Natural Resource Management, Heritage Projects.

Customer Service Opening Hours:

Monday to Friday - 9.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Phone: 03 6254 5000 (Mon-Fri 8.30am - 5.00pm)

Fax: 03 6254 5014

Email: mail@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au

Web: www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au

KEMPTON OFFICE 85 Main Street, Kempton 7030

Development & Environmental Services and
Community & Corporate Development

Customer Service Opening Hours:

Monday to Friday - 9.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Phone: 03 6254 5050

Fax: 03 6254 5014

Email: mail@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au

Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary

345 Chauncy Vale Road, Bagdad

Phone: 03 6254 5050

Web: www.chauncyvale.com

Email: mail@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au

Service Tasmania 71 High Street, Oatlands

Monday to Friday **11.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.**

Phone 1300 13 55 13

WASTE TRANSFER STATION OPENING HOURS

**OATLANDS
WASTE TRANSFER STATION**

Inglewood Road, Andover
(Via Tunnack Main Road, Oatlands)

Tuesday 8.00 am - 12.00 noon

Friday 11.00 am - 3.00 pm

Saturday 8.00 am - 12.00 noon

Sunday 1.00 pm - 5.00 pm

**CAMPANIA
WASTE TRANSFER STATION**

Brown Mountain Road, Campania

Tuesday 1.00 pm - 5.00 pm

Thursday 1.00 pm - 5.00 pm

Saturday 1.00 pm - 5.00 pm

Sunday 8.00 am - 12.00 pm

**DYSART
WASTE TRANSFER STATION**

Huntingdon Tier Road, Dysart

Tuesday 1.00 pm - 5.00pm

Saturday 1.00 pm - 5.00pm

Sunday 1.00 pm - 5.00pm

COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

To place items on the Community Notice Board,
contact IT Officer Nick Wilson or email
webmaster@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au

COUNCILLORS

Mayor & Councillor enquiries can be directed to
Jemma Crosswell (Executive Assistant) - 6254 5004
or via contact details below

Mayor Alex Green	0429 604 153	agreen@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au
Deputy Mayor Edwin Batt	0400 009 471	ebatt@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au
Clr Tony Bantick	0419 340 157	abantick@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au
Clr Tony Bisdee OAM	0418 355 158	abisdee@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au
Clr Karen Dudgeon	0428 361 807	kdudgeon@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au
Clr Don Fish	6255 5157	mail@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au
Clr Rowena McDougall	0466 816 882	rmcdougall@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au

AFTER HOURS

Council emergencies
please phone

0419 325 405

For all after hours
Water & Sewerage TasWater
emergencies
please phone **136 992**

For all after hours
Tasmanian Gas Pipeline
emergencies
please phone **1800 195 666**

For all road issues relating to
the **Midland Highway,**
Mudwalls Road or Tunnack
Main Road please phone
Dept. of State Growth
on **1300 139 933**