



MAYORS REPORT

It is with great pleasure that I present my first Mayors Report.

The recent local government elections have seen some changes at Council, with a new Mayor, new Deputy Mayor and two new Councillors. There were a large number of candidates, I would like to thank all who stood for election, and I congratulate those who were elected. Voter participation was also well up on recent elections. The new Council is very much looking forward to getting down to business through its next term 2018-2022.

Readers may recall in 2017 Oatlands was transformed into an 1820's colonial town for the filming of *The Nightingale*. The film, described as a Tasmanian Gothic tale of revenge, has screened at film festivals in Europe since its release in September 2018. Recently it was selected as one of only six Australian films to be screened at the iconic Sundance Film Festival in Utah, United States. This will provide further priceless international exposure for Oatlands and the Southern Midlands. I hope that we can build on our ongoing success as a location for period film and television production.

At the time of writing this report the Oatlands Christmas Pageant has just concluded. It was fantastic to see a large number of floats from a range of community organisations, businesses and religious groups. With a great number of people attending, it really was a wonderful festive event reflecting the spirit of Christmas and everything it encompasses.

It has also been my pleasure to attend a number of school award ceremonies over the last few weeks. All the ceremonies have been well attended by community members and parents, and it never ceases to amaze me the high level of achievement among our school children. Whether it be in academic, community or sporting fields, we can rightly feel proud of the achievements of our schools.

In closing, I look forward to working with everyone over the next few years to continue to build a strong, prosperous and caring community in the Southern Midlands.

Alex Green
MAYOR

INTRODUCING OUR COUNCIL

Elected November 2018 to October 2022



Mayor
Alex Green



Deputy Mayor
Edwin Batt



Councillor
Anthony (Tony) Bantick



Councillor
Anthony (Tony)
Bisdee OAM



Councillor
Karen Dudgeon



Councillor
Donald Fish



Councillor
Rowena MacDougall

SMC Landcare Unit / NRM Report

Sandy Leighton the part-time Southern Midlands Weeds Officer is now working full-time on weeds with the State Government. Sandy made a great contribution to the Council in the short time she was in the position. She wanted to make sure that we thanked and acknowledged the landholders she worked with during her time in the Midlands. Many people are genuinely committed to making sure they control and manage the weeds on their properties.

Paterson's curse

In the Mangalore area, landholders are working together to reduce Paterson's curse infestations on their properties. It is a long term process however progress is being made and the size and number of Paterson's curse infestations is reducing in this area. Keep up the good work!



Paterson's curse however has the ability to potentially spread widely across the Midlands and it is important that affected landholders remain active in managing infestations. **It should be noted that stock grazing without other control measures is not an effective management strategy. Seeds remain viable after passing through the animal.** It is also toxic to horses.

Chilean Needle Grass – a concern

Biosecurity Tasmania (BT) and the Southern Midlands Council have just become aware of the presence of Chilean Needle Grass (CNG) in some areas of the Coal River Valley. It has been located on a number of

agricultural landholdings. Currently a survey is being undertaken by contractors engaged by BT, to determine the full extent of the infestation. Landholders in the area were invited to a meeting early in December and have been made aware as to the issues associated with this invasive weed.



Under the Weed Management Act, this is a Declared Weed with a Zone A rating – which means planning and working with the aim to eradicate the weed. It is proposed that individual property CNG weed management plans be developed with each of the affected landholders. There is also an infestation in a section of the Brighton / Southern Midlands Council area near Tea Tree, which is being dealt with. A number of landholders in this vicinity are already working to control the infestation on their properties. This very invasive weed which has seeds in three forms on each plant, - seed heads, stem seeds and base level seeds, making control difficult. It can cause serious injury to pets and stock, as well as contaminating meat products, all due to the needle sharp seeds. It is also a threat to biodiversity in our native landscape areas. The best time of the year to spot the plant is late November through to early January when first comes into seed. During other times of the year it is particularly difficult to identify. For further information, it is recommended that you research online.

If you require more information or assistance, please contact the Oatlands Office on 6254 5000 in the first instance.

For the latest Council news visit:

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



PUBLIC COMMENT SOUGHT - Commencement Time of Council Meetings

Following the most recent election, the Southern Midlands Council must review and determine the commencement time for its Ordinary monthly meetings. The *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015* state that a meeting is not to start before 5.00 p.m. **unless otherwise determined by Council.**

Note: The Annual General Meeting, held in December each year, does commence at 5.00 p.m.

At present, monthly meetings commence at 10.00 a.m. and the Agenda includes a 'Public Question Time' section which commences at 12.30 p.m.

Prior to making a determination in relation to future Council meeting times, **Council seeks input from the community in terms of whether there is sufficient interest to warrant meeting after 5.00 p.m., and whether this would increase the level of community attendance.**

In considering this issue, there are a number of factors that need to be considered, including:

- ◆ The anticipated level of community attendance (and interest) if meetings were held after 5.00 p.m. (*or commenced earlier and extended beyond 5.00 p.m.*)
- ◆ Whether persons that may be required to address Council in respect of certain matters may be available after hours (e.g. State Government officers are generally more accessible during normal operating hours);
- ◆ Additional costs associated with Council officers attending meetings out-of-hours;
- ◆ The likelihood of late night travel if meetings extend late into the evening. This is particularly relevant where Council elects to meet in the smaller communities during the summer months; and
- ◆ The ability to source additional information during office hours if an unexpected issue arises.

Prior to making a decision in respect to this matter, Council seeks feedback from the broader community.

Written submissions can be sent to the General Manager, 71 High Street, Oatlands or emailed to mail@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au.

Submissions will be received up until the close of business on the 31st January 2019.

Kempton Recreation Ground – New Entrance Opened

Many residents from the Southern Midlands attended a BBQ and opening event to celebrate the new entrance and upgrade works to the Recreation Ground at Kempton. Those present enjoyed a BBQ with musical entertainment and games for the children.

During the event, Mayor Alex Green welcomed everyone and gave details of the works completed to date. Local resident Daphne Hill then cut the ribbon to mark the opening of the newly located entrance to the ground.

The day also saw many participate in decorating clay leaves and fence posts. These will be fired and used to form part of the mural at the back of the grandstand building. The scope of the art work encompassed many individual ideas – making for a collective interesting art work feature being created.

It was a great day enjoyed by everyone.





Bus services are changing

Routes and timetables are changing in Southern Tasmania as the Tasmanian Government increases services to major towns outside of Hobart. These changes may affect your current travel arrangements. Visit www.transport.tas.gov.au for more information on routes that will be affected. New timetables will be available online in early 2019, with the changes to commence 20 January 2019.

Department of State Growth 



SOUTHERN MIDLANDS COUNCIL



Southern Midlands Council
AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS
 Saturday, 26th January 2019
 10.00 a.m.
Oatlands RSL Club

The following awards will be presented by Mayor Alex Green
 Citizen of the Year
 Young Citizen of the Year
 Community Event of the Year

Australia Day Ambassador
 Mr Tony Scherer will be in attendance.



All welcome

29th Annual Oatlands Christmas Pageant

Congratulations to the Oatlands Christmas Pageant Committee for organising another successful Christmas Pageant which was held on the 14th December 2018. This year there were 32 floats entered - a big thank you to all those who entered to make this another fantastic year.

Winners:

Float of the Year:
 Trolls

Encouragement Award:
 Uniting Church

Most Entertaining:
 ROXY IGA

Best Presented Float:
 Cave Men

Best Presented Children's Float:
 Oatlands School Grade 3/4

Best Combined Float:
 Chip Monks

Children's Encouragement Award: Tunnack Funny Farm

Best School Float:
 Oatlands School Grade 1/2 Gingerbread Men



Draft Southern Midlands Local Provisions Schedule

Council endorsed the *Draft Southern Midlands Local Provisions Schedule* ("draft LPS") and the *Local Provisions Schedule Supporting Report* at its November Council Meeting.

The draft LPS is a central component of the State Government's planning reform process and forms the second part of the Tasmanian Planning Scheme.

The first part being the already approved State Planning Provisions. The Tasmanian Planning Scheme will mean all 29 Council's in Tasmania will operate under the same Planning Scheme template, including the administrative and assessment requirements, same zoning, codes and general provisions. It is however up to each Council to apply the State Planning Provisions such as the zoning and overlays to the land and to include all local provisions such as heritage listed places, precincts, special areas or site specific qualifications that are unique to the local area and represent local values and strategic objectives.

The State Government drive the planning reform process

and have directed Council, among other matters, to largely translate as far as practical the current planning provisions under the *Southern Midlands Interim Planning Scheme 2015*. A full report was provided on the contents of the draft LPS at the November meeting and the August Meeting.

The endorsement of the draft LPS marks the completion of a critical stage in progressing the LPS for the Southern Midlands.

The draft LPS will be exhibited for representations and comment over a 60 day statutory period. The exhibition period will include public consultation through advertised "drop in" sessions with Council Officers.

A date for the exhibition and consultation of the draft is not yet available as the Tasmanian Planning Commission and the Minister for Planning must first approve the draft as suitable for exhibition.

Further updates on the progress of the draft will be provided at the upcoming Council Meetings and through Council's social media and website.



Backyard Burning

Just got the linen on the line to dry: a nice sunny day with a gentle breeze – perfect day for drying the sheets, pillow slips and doona cover: however your live next door to someone who has an incinerator and the weather is also perfect for "burning off".

Sound familiar: **I mean who wants smokey bedding?**

Backyard burning (in Tasmania) is regulated under the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control (Distributed*

Atmospheric Emissions) Regulations 2018. Although the name is long the regulations themselves are quite brief and the requirements regarding "backyard burning" have been essentially the same for the past 12 years. This means that if your land has an area of less than 2,000m² then unless Council has a By-Law to manage backyard burning (Southern Midlands Council does not) then you cannot burn materials in the open or in an incinerator (except for a few exceptions).

The only exceptions are if you have a Fire Permit (from the TFS), or for the sole or primary purpose of reducing a *fire hazard*: even then you can only burn unpainted, untreated and uncontaminated wood, or vegetative waste (dry not green), or vegetation (dry not green), or paper, or charcoal, or peat. If your land has an area over 2,000m² then the restrictions on what you can burn still apply, but not the other requirements.

You cannot burn plastic, metal, cardboard, milk cartons, etc.

Over-riding all of this are the provisions of the *Environmental Management & Pollution Control Act* relating to environmental nuisance: nothing in the *Regulations* gives someone the right to pollute.

My advice would be to avoid burning as far as possible (you'll have a better relationship with your neighbours) and everyone's bedding will smell nicer. But if you need to burn then do it *strictly* in accordance with the requirements of the *Regulations*.

Enquiries

about "backyard burning" can be directed to Council's Development & Environmental Services Office
Phone 6259 3011 or email: mail@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au

Welcome to the Southern Midlands of Tasmania, 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 3400 rateable properties and 6000 persons scattered throughout the districts. *Towns and localities include Mangalore, Pontville, Bagdad, Broadmarsh, Elderslie, Dysart, Kempton, Melton Mowbray, Oatlands, Tunbridge, Tunnack, Parattah, Woodsdale, Levendale, Runnymede, Colebrook, Campania and Rekuna.*

Contact Us!

OATLANDS OFFICE 71 High Street, Oatlands 7120

Corporate Services, Infrastructure & Works, Natural Resource Management, Heritage Projects, Information Technology

Customers Service Opening Hours (Mon - Fri 9.00am - 4.30pm)

Phone 03 6254 5000 (Mon - Fri 8.30am - 5.20pm)

Fax 03 6254 5014

mail@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au

www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au

KEMPTON OFFICE 85 Main Street, Kempton 7030

Development & Environmental Services, Community & Corporate Development

Customers Service Opening Hours (Mon - Fri 9.00am - 4.30pm)

Phone 03 6259 3011 (Mon - Fri 8.30am - 5.20pm)

Fax 03 6259 1327

mail@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au

Chauncy Wildlife Sanctuary

345 Chauncy Vale Road, Bagdad

Phone 03 6259 3011

Further info & bookings www.chauncyvale.com

Oatlands Swimming Pool 2018/19

Opening Hours:

During School Terms (Mon-Fri) 3.00 p.m. – 6.00 p.m.

During School Holidays 11.00 a.m. – 6.00 p.m.

Weekends 11.00 a.m. – 6.00 p.m.

Public Holidays 11.00 a.m. – 6.00 p.m.

Fees & charges details are available on councils website

COUNCILLORS

Mayor and Councillor enquiries can be directed to:

Elisa Lang (Executive Assistant) - 6254 5004

mail@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au

Mayor Alex Green 0429 604 153

Deputy Mayor Edwin Batt 0400 009 471

Councillor Tony Bantick 0419 340 157

Councillor Tony Bisdee OAM 0418 355 158

Councillor Karen Dudgeon 0428 361 807

Councillor Donald Fish 6255 5157

Councillor Rowena McDougall 0466 816 882

Or visit www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au
for further contact details.



Service Tasmania

Oatlands

71 High Street
Oatlands Tas 7120

Opening Hours

Monday to Friday
11.00am—4.00pm

For all AFTER HOURS Council emergencies please phone 0419 325 405

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

For all after hours **Tasmanian Gas Pipeline emergencies**, please phone 1800 195 666 Gen Enq 1300 241 820

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

Community Notice Board

For Information in relation to placing items on the online Community Notice Board, please contact Councils IT Officer Nick Wilson at the Oatlands Office or Email webmaster@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au

WASTE TRANSFER STATION OPENING HOURS

OATLANDS WASTE TRANSFER STATION

Inglewood Road, Andover

(Via Tunnack Main Road Oatlands to Parattah)

- 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 - 5.00pm
- Thursday 1.00 pm - 5.00pm
- 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

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