



Newsletter

Edition 1 | January 2021



This issue of the Newsletter follows the Christmas/New Year break and I trust that everyone had a safe and enjoyable festive period.

We can only hope that 2021 does not present the challenges that were faced last year relating to the Coronavirus and some normality returns to our everyday lives. This is despite knowing that we must remain vigilant and take all care to manage and prevent spread of the disease.

As a result of the current restrictions regarding events and activities, Councillors were not directly involved in end-of-year school presentations, but I take this opportunity to congratulate all Award winners. I look forward to participating at this year's ceremonies.

From a Council perspective, the coming year will see numerous Capital Works being undertaken, including the Road Reseal and Road Reconstruction Program; construction of pathways in various locations; streetscape improvements and the commencement of construction of the Oatlands Aquatic Centre. These projects, in addition to standard maintenance requirements, will see a very busy year ahead.

Clr Alex Green
MAYOR

Aquatic Centre, Oatlands, Green Light

A new purpose-built Aquatic Centre for the region will now become a reality with the Southern Midlands Council deciding to progress to construction phase. This project was identified some twenty plus years ago in recognition that the existing facility was nearing the end of its useful life.

The facility, to be built at Oatlands, will include a 25m, 6 lane pool, toddlers pool and dry activity exercise room.

The total cost will be around \$9 million, of which Council has already secured \$4 million in grant funding from both the Australian and Tasmanian Governments. Council's contribution will come from the sale of existing property assets; a loan borrowing to reflect the long-term nature of the facility; and a contribution of \$80,000 from the previous Station Child Care Centre.

In making the decision, Council acknowledged the Centre is projected to require a significant operating subsidy, but the benefits to the community outweighed the cost impact.

Council has a 10-year financial strategy to absorb this cost, but it is hoped that as attendances increase and operational efficiencies are achieved, operational costs will decline. The cost impact is also softened by the fact the existing pool, which only operates for three months each year, requires a subsidy from Council of around \$120,000 and has reached the end of its useful life and is not able to be upgraded in the current location. The projected subsidy is commensurate with the increased quality of service and the fact that it will operate all year round.

Council is excited at the opportunity the new facility will bring, including health and well-being for all age groups, 'learn to swim' classes and swimming training for the municipalities' schools and their students and general recreation for residents and visitors. It will support the Oatlands Multi-Purpose Health Centre.

These benefits will be enjoyed by the community and visitors for decades to come.

As mentioned the centre will be open all-year round with the hours of operation to be determined by seasons, usage and public holidays.



Date: 25 th November 2020	Contact: Oatlands	Phone: 131 444
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Man issued infringement notice for dumping litter in Colebrook

Police have issued a man an infringement notice and fine for illegally dumping litter on the side of the road in Colebrook.

Following an investigation by Southern Midlands Council and Tasmania Police, a 27-year-old Colebrook man was issued with an infringement notice for Depositing litter in a public place with a volume between 2 and 10 cubic metres, and fine of \$1,720. It is alleged that between Saturday 14 November and Monday 16 of November the man dumped several small truckloads of garden and outdoor rubbish on the side of Yarlington Road, approximately 8kms from Colebrook.

Senior Sergeant Parker said that the information provided to Police and the Council in a very timely manner identifying the individual concerned, was greatly appreciated.



Congratulations Bagdad Education and Care Bagdad, Tas Tammy and committee—Early STEM project to the Little Scientists Award Committee and won the State Award second year in a row.



“This project was called **Earth ‘really is’ a Goldilocks Planet** and included the journey which started with a bamboo steamer we used during Chinese New Year in Feb and progressed as we explored steam, water, ice, then temperatures which included checking rain gauges, sensory ice experiences, making wheat bags, cooking on our brazier (open fire) and then moved to conversations about what we would need to live on the moon as children noticed the moon was rising earlier as Winter approached. We talked about temperatures of other planets which led to us discovering that Earth was not too hot and not too cold but ‘just right’. Consequently, one of our children identified was just like the Goldilocks story. As we researched further we discovered that ‘Goldilocks Planet’ is an actual term used by scientists to describe planets that have

inhabitable conditions, similar to Earth. Goes to show we’re all always learning”.

See details in the link:

<https://littlescientists.org.au/news-events/award/earth-really-is-a-goldilocks-planet/>



Caves Track upgrade at Chauncy Vale

The latest work to improve the popular Caves Loop Walk at Chauncy Vale has just been completed. John Hughes Track Construction was engaged by Council to improve alignment, stabilise eroding edges and to make the route through the rocky landscape more obvious and user-friendly than it used to be.

The Caves Loop track passes by Brown’s Cave and several small caves providing access to one of the more dramatic and unique landscapes in the Southern Midlands.

Natural stone formations, views and wildflowers are some of the things to enjoy along the way. The Caves Loop Walk is 2.5 km long and usually takes a little over an hour to complete.

Brown’s Caves was named after a bushranger named Brown who was known to hide from parties of troopers by climbing down into one of the least accessible caves in the escarpment to avoid capture.

More information about Chauncy Vale is available at www.chauncyvale.com






Learn to Swim

Beginners Class 9.45 am to 10.15 am
Intermediate Class 10.30 am to 11.00 am
Monday, Wednesday, Friday
commencing 11/01/2021

\$6 Per Lesson

for more info
Wendy Young - 0458 711 028

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New: Australian Warning System

The Australian Warning System is a new national approach to information and warnings for hazards like bushfire, flood, storm, cyclone, extreme heat and severe weather.

Early in December 2020 the first stage of the new Australian Warning System was rolled out.

The Changes include the way bushfire warnings are displayed on the TFS website and partner agencies, including [TasALERT](#) and ABC.



EMERGENCY WARNING

From 1 December, the colours and icons (diamond to a triangle) have changed to:



WATCH AND ACT



ADVICE

- Advice (yellow)
- Watch and Act (orange)
- Emergency Warning (red)

While the colours and icons have changed, the meanings of the levels have not, and incident controllers do not have to do anything differently when activating a warning level.

The changes are part of a nationwide review of the Australian Warning System. They are designed to bring consistency across Australia to the way incidents are displayed, with most states and territories having worked towards implementing them in December 2020.

In 2021, further changes will be introduced, including changes to warning messages and calls to action.

Further information about the Australian Warning System can also be found on the Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience website:

<https://knowledge.aidr.org.au/resources/australia-warning-system/>.

State Emergency Service Southern Midlands Road Crash Rescue Unit

The following members of the Southern Midlands Road Crash Rescue Unit were presented with their respective Service Medals at a recent function:

Max Gray - National Medal plus 25 Year SES Service Pin

The National Medal recognises long and diligent service by members of recognised government and voluntary organisations that risk their lives or safety to protect or assist the community in enforcement of the law or in times of emergency or natural disaster:

Jason Robins - 1st Clasp

The Clasp recognises each additional ten years' service following issue of the National Medal.

Tim Kirkwood - 15 Year SES Service Pin



Photo: Jason Robins; Tim Kirkwood; Max Gray; Mark Dance (SES Regional)



SOUTHERN
MIDLANDS
COUNCIL



Southern Midlands Council Australia Day Awards

**THURSDAY
21ST JANUARY
2021**

Congratulations to the following recipients who will be presented Australia Day Awards by Mayor Alex Green

Citizen of the Year:

Ms Kate Gillham

Young Citizen of the Year:

Mr Rohan Barwick

Community Event of the Year:
2020 Kempton Festival

~ ALL WELCOME ~

Callington Park Oatlands – playground officially opened



On Monday 14 December 2020 Senator Claire Chandler and Mayor Alex Green officially opened the playground with assistance from Oatlands District High School students. Many of the students present were involved in

selecting the playground equipment installed at the Park. The opening was also attended by community members and the Lake Dulverton and Callington Park Management Committee.

The playground equipment has been available for use since September 2020, however the Callington Park grass area has been closed until recently due to installation of an irrigation system and the establishment of new turf.

There have been hundreds of children (and adults!) enjoying the new equipment and lots of positive feedback has been received. Council thanks the Australian Government for supporting this project with funding from the Community Development Grants Program.

Frequently ask question about new building work

Can I build an addition, verandah, deck to my dwelling without a permit?

In most cases **this type of work** is Category 3 – Notifiable Building Work and the owner must engage a building surveyor to ensure approvals are in place before the work starts. A copy of the Certificate of Likely Compliance – Notifiable Work and detailed plans issued by the Building Surveyor must be lodged with Council before the work starts.

◆ **It's a good idea to talk to your Building Designer or Building Surveyor first for clarification.**

What happens when building work is carried out without approvals in place?

- ◆ Council would be required under legislation to issue a Building Notice and a Building Order to the owner to obtain approval under the Act;
- ◆ **Selling your property:** the owner is required by law to ensure that all building and plumbing work has been carried out in accordance with legislation, failure to obtain a Certificate of Completion or illegal work may make a contract of sale invalid:
I.e. Vendor Requisition Has any building work, improvements or renovations been carried out on the property on the land for sale? If so, the date the building work was issued and a Certificate of Completion, Occupancy Permit may need to be provided?
- ◆ Your insurance company may refuse future claims.

For further Consumer building information: www.cbos.tas.gov.au or the [Directors Determination - Categories of Building and Demolition Work \(cbos.tas.gov.au\)](#)





!The National Construction Code of Australia (NCA) defines a swimming pool as an excavation or structure that:

- is capable of being filled with water to a depth of 300 millimetres or more the maximum possible water surface is greater than 5 square metres.
- is capable of being used for swimming, bathing, wading, paddling or other human aquatic activities.
- is used, designed, manufactured or adapted for the purpose mentioned above, despite its current use includes spas and inflatable swimming pools.

It does not include a:

- fish pond, ornamental pond, manufactured to be used for ornamental purposes.
- dam used for aquaculture, marine research or storage of water.
- Watercourse.
- Spa bath situated in a bathroom which is not continually filled with water.
- Birthing pool used solely for water births.
- Portable wading pool.
- A portable wading pool is defined as: capable of being filled with water to a depth of less than 300 millimetres;

and has a volume of no more than 2,000 litres; and has no filtration or pumping System.

Basic Swimming Pool Requirements :

- Fences and gates must be at least 1.2m high, with a bottom clearance of no more than 100mm. Any horizontal rails should be on the side of the fence and at least 900mm apart. Any vertical rails must not be more than 100mm apart.
- Gates must only open outwards and must automatically close and lock.
- The gate latch must be at least 1.5m above the ground otherwise special conditions may apply.
- Boundary fences cannot be used as part of the pool enclosure, unless certified by your Building Surveyor.
- Doors leading into the pool must be self-closing and self-locking, and the release latch at least 1.5m above the floor and must not swing into the pool area. This does not include sliding doors.
- Windows overlooking the pool area must be either totally .
- covered by bars no more than 100mm apart, or not be able to be opened more than 105mm by the use of chains etc.
- Remove any temporary or non-compliant ladders or equipment that can be used to climb and access pool area.

Frequently asked question: Does this apply to a backyard blow up pool—YES



FIRE HAZARDS

Owners & occupiers of properties in the Southern Midlands Municipality are reminded with the fire season fast approaching **it is now time to assess your property & clear any potential fire hazards.**

Inspections of properties are underway, and where considered necessary, Fire Abatement Notices will be issued for the clearing of the fire hazards in accordance with the *Local Government 1993*.

Failure to comply with a Fire Hazard Abatement Notice may result in council undertaking the work at the property owner's expense and fines may apply. Council seeks the co-operation of residents in ensuring that their property does not constitute a fire risk during the coming months.

For further information: contact Council on 6254 5054 or email mail@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au

COUNCIL MEETINGS

DATE	LOCATION	TIME
Wednesday 27 January 2021	Bagdad Community Club 1661 Midland Highway, Bagdad	10.00 a.m. Public Question Time 10.30 a.m.
Tuesday, 23 February 2021	Tunbridge Hall 99 Main Road, Tunbridge	10.00 a.m. Public Question Time 10.30 a.m.
Wednesday 24 March 2021	Woodsdale Hall 2310 Woodsdale Road, Woodsdale	10.00 a.m. Public Question Time 10.30 a.m.

Note: Public Copy Agenda's and Minutes can be located on Council's website

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
Executive Assistant- 6254 5000
or via contact details below

Mayor Alex Green	0429 604 153	agree@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**