



# Newsletter

Issue 1 | January 2022

## MAYORS REPORT



The New Year is upon us and I trust and hope that everyone had an enjoyable and safe Christmas and New Year period. Whilst there were a number of good news stories in the last part of the calendar year, three residents of the Southern Midlands are worthy of particular mention:

Denis Kline – won (and was also placed second) in the 2021 Tasmanian Yard Dog Open Championships. Denis will now go on to represent Tasmania at the 2022



Nick Davis – has been named in Cricket Australia's U19 training squad in preparation for the ICC Under 19 Men's Cricket World Cup 2022. The training squad has been announced ahead of the ICC Under 19 Men's Cricket World Cup 2022 tournament to be held in the West Indies early next year.

Congratulations to everyone and we wish them all the very best in their endeavours.



Australian Championships in April.

*Photograph:  
Denis Kline with  
Dogs Olboa  
Hayden & Lola  
Photo courtesy of  
Mary-Frances  
Faulkner*

Samuel Banks - was drafted by the Richmond Football Club as part of the 2021 AFL Draft. Sam has lived the majority of his life in the Southern Midlands Council area and grew up at Whitefoord.

He commenced his football career playing with the Central Hawks Junior Football Club and progressed to play with Clarence; the Tassie Devils and represented Tasmania numerous times at junior level.



From a Council perspective, the remaining six months of this financial year will see progress being made with a number of capital works projects yet to be completed. The most significant being the Oatlands Swimming Pool which is due for completion in late March 2022. In addition there are a number of road construction projects scheduled; building improvements to a number of Council properties; and town and streetscape works.

On a broader scale, I was pleased to be nominated and appointed as local government's 'Chief Owners Representative' for TasWater. This followed the resignation of the previous Chief Representative, Clarence Mayor Doug Chipman. The TasWater Owners Representative Group (ORG) comprises one representative from each member of the corporation (i.e. 29 Owner Councils) from which the Chief Representative is appointed. In summary, the collective role of the ORG is to make and implement decisions of behalf of Owner Councils within the scope of the TasWater Constitution. It does not have any direct governance or operational responsibility.

We look forward to a positive and productive 2022.

Clr

Alex Green  
MAYOR

### Property & Rates

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

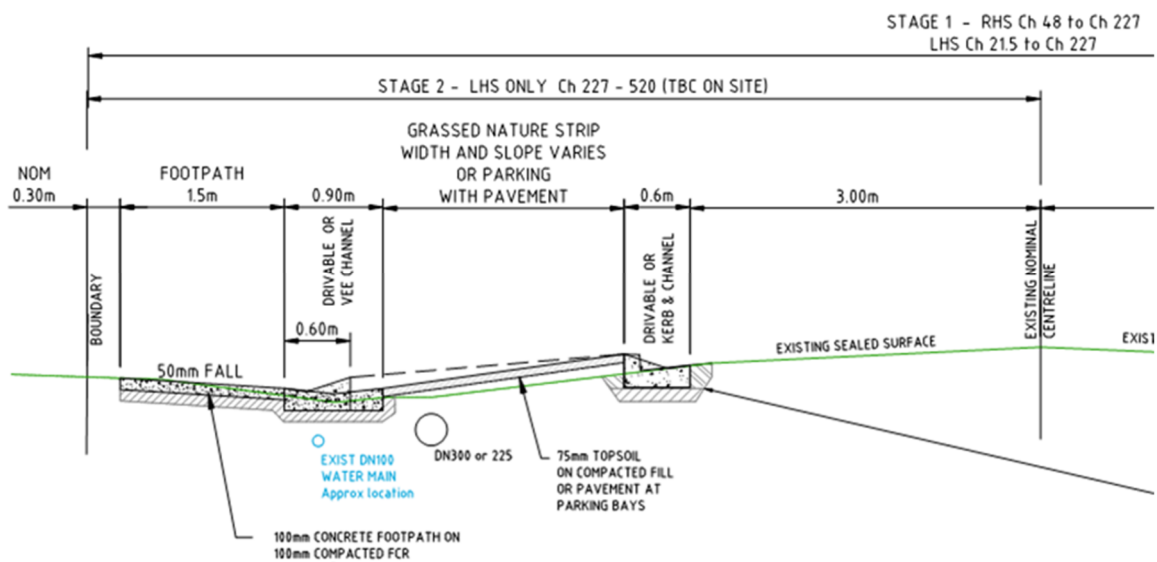


Simply email us your name and property details to: [mail@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au](mailto:mail@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au)

## Blackbrush Road – Kerb, Channel, Footpath

The work on the Blackbrush Road drainage and footpath has been a little delayed due to the inundation during October and the repair work that has been required as a consequence to the flooding events across the Southern Midlands local government area.

The design for Blackbrush Road is to construct kerb and channel and concrete footpath up to the vicinity of number 45 on the Southern side of the Road, given that was the area that received considerable damage in the flooding event of October 2020. Where the house lots are to some degree smaller at the Midland Highway end of the road, the design allows for paved off road car parking in lieu of a grassed nature strip to ensure that the road is not too congested with parked vehicles. This situation was arrived at after some consultation in the area. This can be seen in the design cross section, below where at a lower level the 'v' drain will act as a second defence barrier to future flooding events. On the northern side of the road the kerb, channel and footpath will go from the Highway up to the western boundary of the Community Hall, if the funds allow.



**“Tasmania’s electric vehicle future charging ahead”** This was the Premier, Peter Gutwein’s opening statement when he launched the second round of the Electric Vehicle Charge Smart Grants program, providing funding for electric vehicle fast and destination charging stations in regional Tasmania.

Southern Midlands Council and Electric Highways Tasmania Pty Ltd through a strategic alliance, applied for a grant to install twin electric vehicle charging stations (50w each) at the Oatlands Aquatic Centre carpark site. In the design of the Aquatic Centre the pre provisioning of conduits and switchboard capacity was taken into account to accommodate an EV Charging station into the future. The timing has been perfect, given the announcement has just been made, that we were successful with our grant application. We would like to thank the Premier and his team at the *Renewables, Climate and Future Industries Tasmania* office (ReCFIT) in the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

The Premier stated *“Tasmania has already consolidated its reputation as a climate leader – we were the first state in Australia to reach net zero emissions and we’ve reached our 2050 target early for five years in a row and for six years out of seven.*

Council and Electric Highway Tasmania were keen to show leadership in encouraging electric vehicle uptake through increased awareness of the technology and increased convenience of charging.



## Invasive Grasses to look out for in the Southern Midlands

The Southern Midlands is an important grazing and cropping area and includes extensive and productive tracts of native pastures with significant environmental values. Invasive grasses can silently invade both productive and native pastures, reducing productivity, palatability and causing damage to stock. Once these weeds are present in an area, land holders must adopt quarantine and hygiene measures to prevent further spread. Research shows that pastures that can normally carry 7-15 Dry Sheep Equivalent (DSE\*) per hectare can be reduced to only 0.5 DSE when heavily infested with serrated tussock.

Highly invasive grasses present in Tasmania include Chilean needle grass (CNG), Texas needle grass, serrated tussock (ST), African lovegrass and Mexican feathergrass, with additional grasses of concern being African feathergrass, Parramatta grass and espartillo. In the Southern Midlands area, Chilean needle grass is currently known to infest over 600 Ha (Campania area) and the Coal River Products Association has secured funding under the Weeds Action Fund (WAF) for on ground control works over the next three years. There is a small 4 Ha area of serrated tussock in the Midlands where the landholder continues to monitor and control on an ongoing and annual basis. African lovegrass is present along sections of the State Growth network (Midland Highway) and is controlled under the State Roads Priority Weed Program

with all sites visited and controlled three times per year.

In addition, the Northern Midlands has several outlier infestations of serrated tussock in the Cressy, Millers Bluff and Campbell Town areas, with further survey work to be completed this summer to identify additional areas. WAF funding has been allocated to these areas for survey and control works over the next three years. To the south there are extensive areas of ST and CNG in the Clarence municipality and extensive areas of CNG in the Brighton municipality.

The Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (formerly DPIPWE), Biosecurity Tasmania, has received Australian Government funding and recently appointed an Invasive Grasses Project Officer. The two-year project will link in with and value add to current invasive grasses activities across Tasmania. This includes providing support to the 33 Weeds Action Fund funded invasive grasses projects valued at \$944,000; form the Tasmanian Invasive Grasses Network; contract delimiting/ additional surveys in key areas, consolidate mapping data, develop technical information, provide training and oversee the additional \$150,000 over three years funding for invasive grasses across the State.

### Serrated tussock (*Nassella trichotoma*)



*Chilean needle grass*

### Chilean needle grass (*Nassella neesiana*)



**It's a good idea for landowners to be proactive,** regularly inspect your property this summer for signs of invasive grasses and report any suspicious grasses to Council NRM staff Maria Weeding [mweeding@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au](mailto:mweeding@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au) or Helen Geard [hgeard@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au](mailto:hgeard@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au) or phone the Oatlands Council office on 03 6254 5000. To aid with identification, place a sample (including seed head and stem) in a large snap lock bag and take some photos. Invasive Grasses information sheets are available at the Oatlands office or digitally from Maria or Helen.

\*Dry Sheep Equivalent (DSE) = a standard measure for determining stocking rate of livestock on a paddock or farm, based on the amount of feed required to maintain the weight of non-lactating ('dry') sheep expressed per hectare.



## The Southcentral Workforce Network (SWN)

A workforce development project operating in the Southern Midlands, Derwent Valley, Brighton and Central Highlands local government areas.

This project has been funded by the Tasmanian Community Fund for three years of operation, being led by Anthony McConnon as the Workforce Development Coordinator

It's aim is to increase the workforce participation of local people through access to meaningful qualifications; help local businesses better connect with employment services and training systems; and improve productivity and business growth across the region.

The Workforce Development Coordinator works closely with employers, industry groups, Registered Training Organisations, local job seekers, and educators to support, train and encourage local employment from within the region.

The project essentially revolves around the implementation of the strategies and initiatives recommended in the Southern Central Subregion Regional Workforce Planning Report undertaken by KPMG on behalf of the four Subregion councils (Southern Midlands, Brighton, Central Highlands and Derwent Valley) and released at the end of 2017.

As part of the Premier's Economic and Social Recover Advisory Council Report, it contained a recommendation to establish a range of Jobs Hubs in Tasmania. Because of the success of the first year of operations of the Workforce Development Project, the State Government through Jobs Tasmania has offered the project a funding commitment of \$M1.625 and the project will run until October 2024.

The Approved Purpose of the funding is to facilitate the delivery of a Regional Jobs Hub to service the jobseekers and businesses for the purpose of:

<b>a) Increasing the level of employment for residents of the region</b>	<b>b) Increasing the level of engagement in formal education and training for residents of the region</b>
<b>c) Increasing the labour force participation rate for residents of the region</b>	Supporting the residents of the region to be on a pathway to (a), (b) or (c).

Both Mayor Alex Green (Chairman) and Andrew Benson, Deputy General Manager -Southern Midlands Council, are inaugural members of the Advisory Board for the Jobs Hub, along with local Southern Midlands resident, Elliott Booth, who is the Chief Executive Officer of Andrew Walter Construction Pty Ltd. Other areas and industries are represented on the Advisory Board.

Council are justifiably proud to be part of this project, it has the potential to make an amazing difference to the lives of the Community Members of the Southern Midlands, and of course the partner LGAs of Brighton, Central Highland and Derwent Valley.

Facilitating *Local jobs for Local people* as well as increasing the potential for the Community's education attainment are extremely worthy aspirations. With this project those aspirations will be coming into reality.

Anthony McConnon, our Workforce Development Coordinator has achieved amazing success with the TCF Project in a really short period of time and his leadership, along with the guidance of the Hub Advisory Board will ensure success. Checkout the website

Outcomes Since September 2020



Activity	Target	Oct 21	YTD
Industry & Employer Meetings	40 /mth	32	544
Roles Filled During October	3.4/mth	4	143
Referrals to Partner Organisations		0	14
Industry/Career Awareness and Pre Employment Sessions		5	57
Training Courses		2	24
Resumes sent out to employers		9	320

## Drains and pipes on private property - Stormwater Management

Following the recent heavy rain events, property owners are reminded that they are responsible for management of stormwater drainage and surface water within their property. This can be achieved by maintaining roof gutters, downpipes, rainwater tanks, surface channels and other components to minimise the possibility of stormwater entering theirs or their neighbour's property.

Property owners must accept natural overland flow from adjoining properties or public land and must not divert or redirect the flow from its natural path onto neighbouring properties.

A downstream property owner cannot erect any type of barrier that interferes with the path of stormwater unless provision is made for the flow to discharge to an approved drainage system.

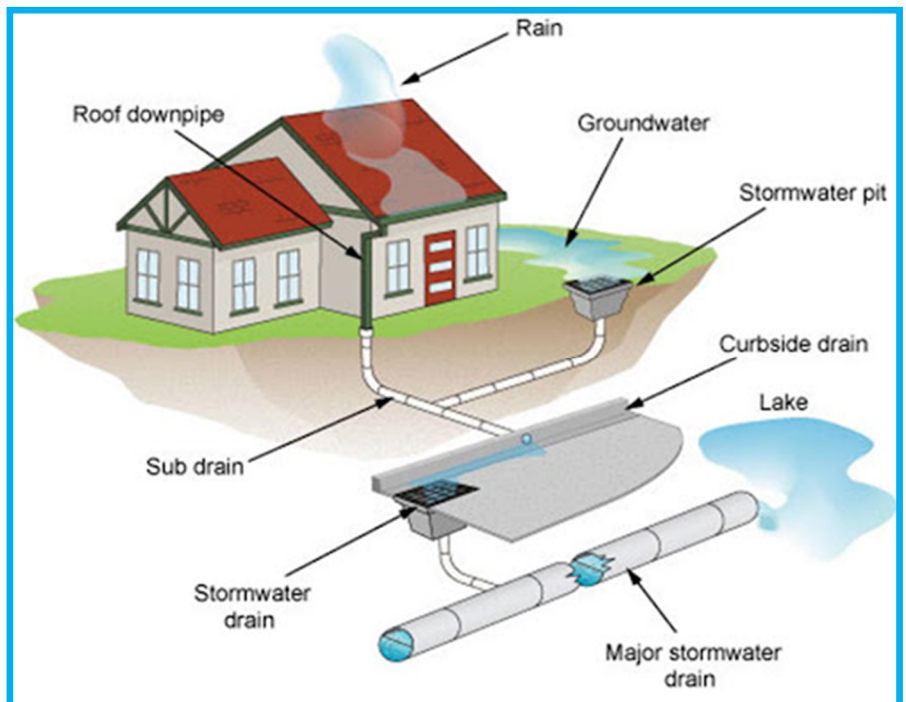
When constructing hardstand areas such as driveways, concrete and paved areas, landscaping and drains, property owners must control the stormwater in order to prevent concentrated overland flows onto adjacent properties.

Property owners generally need to ensure that roof water and hardstand areas are drained to a lawful point of discharge such as:

- Kerb and channel;
- Roadside table drain;
- An inter-allotment stormwater drainage pipe system; and
- Subject to Council approval, a Council controlled drainage easement or drainage reserve.

Council is responsible for regulating private drainage. Council may direct a property owner to connect to Council's stormwater drainage system or other legal point of discharge.

It is the property owner's responsibility to maintain private stormwater infrastructure. If there is a stormwater issue caused by the failure of your own internal plumbing, contact your plumber.



## Skate Space Approved at Kempton



**TASMANIAN  
COMMUNITY FUND**  
INVESTING IN AND STRENGTHENING  
TASMANIAN COMMUNITIES

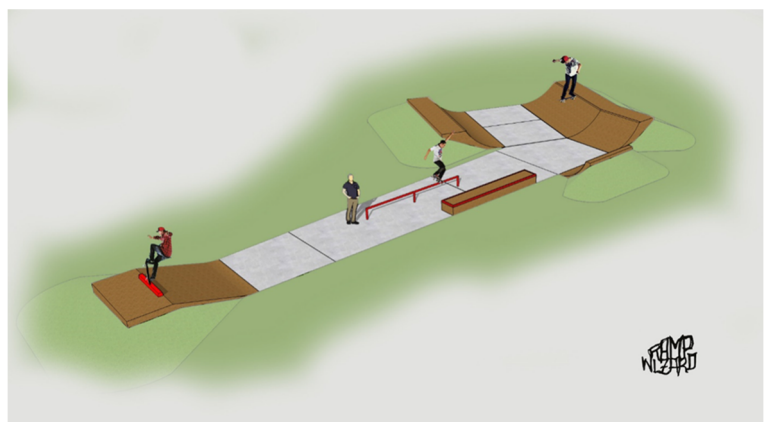
The younger generation of Kempton and the surrounding area will be excited to hear that the proposed skate space has received Planning Approval to proceed to

construction. The funding was part of a grant that the Green Ponds Progress Association applied for through the Tasmanian Community Fund and were successful.

Council have also contributed funding for the project.

Local Community Members, Natalie Eaton and Leigh Monks, along with Deputy Mayor Edwin Batt are driving the project.

The project details for the funding submission were supplied by Ramp Wizard. Who is Ramp Wizard? AKA Carlo Cassan, who is a former Pro Skateboarder who is now a designer and builder of Skate Parks, with over ten years of international experience in the Skate Park Industry. Carlo is keen to start construction early in the New Year – [Watch this Space!](#)



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](mailto:mail@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au)

**Web:** [www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au](http://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](mailto:mail@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au)

**Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary**

345 Chauncy Vale Road, Bagdad

**Phone:** 03 6254 5050

**Web:** [www.chauncyvale.com](http://www.chauncyvale.com)

**Email:** [mail@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au](mailto:mail@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au)

## 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

**Service Tasmania** 71 High Street, Oatlands

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

Phone 1300 13 55 13

It is a requirement for people aged 12 years and older (unless exempt) in Tasmania to wear a mask in all public indoor spaces as an additional layer of protection against COVID-19. This requirement is captured in a [Direction under the \*Public Health Act 1997\* Face masks | Coronavirus disease](#)

## COUNCILLORS

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

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

## 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**