



Newsletter

Issue 1 | January 2023



From the Mayor's Desk

"Times Are Changing"

From 9th November 2022 the Southern Midlands has a newly elected Council with a new Mayor and Deputy Mayor. It's a change, and this is change I hope you will like.

I know we are sometimes a bit suspicious of the benefit of change. I sometimes would like to throw my computer and mobile phone away and go back to the day when our phone number was Melton 23 and the postmistress (Mrs Pennyquick) at the telephone exchange (located at the Melton Mowbray Post Office) magically knew your family news before anyone else.

Change is happening to the makeup of our towns too. Older residents of Campania, Bagdad and Kempton in particular are seeing "new people" move into their towns, building new houses and trying to fit into their new community. It's so important that we accept this change and embrace our new residents and help them find their place. And watch them bring new attributes to our district to enhance its livability. Change. It can be for the better if we embrace it.

One of the most pleasing tasks in the lead up to Christmas is attendance at the end-of-year School Assemblies and presentations. It is certainly inspiring to hear about the extent of achievements at the respective schools and see the abundance of young talent coming through. Congratulations to all the students who were recognised at the presentations and well done to all the entire school communities.

On a less positive note, at the time of writing, I have received advice that there has been another serious accident in the vicinity of Mood Food at Kempton. Whilst Council has made numerous representations to the State Government regarding the need to undertake safety improvements to its road at this location it has not moved to fix the problem. It is clearly evident that something needs to be done urgently. I can assure you that Council will continue to lobby the State Government to make the necessary roadway changes to this area to reduce the risks of further accidents.

We look forward to a prosperous and highly productive 2023.

Clr E Batt, Mayor

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 10.30 a.m. The Public Question Time is held at 12.30 p.m. when the Council Meeting is held in locations other than the Kempton or Oatlands Council Chambers.

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 2023.

Chauncy Vale, Bagdad Tas



The Wombat Woodland Walk is a new adventure play and wildlife discovery attraction for small children at Chauncy Vale, Council's bushland reserve near Bagdad. The Walk is a great option for young families during the summer holiday season. There are a number of wildlife sculptures to be found along the walk, and usually evidence that our nocturnal wildlife has been about, namely footprints, burrows and scats.

You'll find the Wombat Woodland Walk from the end of the road

in Chauncy Vale Reserve.

At the moment, if you go around the full loop there is a creek crossing to do. Obviously this won't always be possible, please only cross the creek at low water flow.

More information can be found at: www.chauncyvale.com/wombat-woodland-walk including a map of the walk and an information sheet on the sculptures.



A very nasty weed...

Chilean needle grass (*Nassella neesiana*) is a perennial tussock plant which can grow to 1m high. It is a Weed of National Significance and is regarded as one of Australia's worst weeds. Why?

- It is highly invasive and competitive,
- It spreads easily on machinery, clothing or livestock,
- It has high economic, animal welfare and environmental impacts.
- Its sharp, pointed seeds can penetrate wool, hides, eyes and mouths of livestock and pets.
- Viable seeds are not only produced on long flowering stems, but also within stems closer to the ground.
- It will tolerate drought and heavy grazing and seed banks can build up

over time to levels of around 20,000 seeds per square meter.

- Stock (particularly sheep) are best excluded from heavily infested areas over summer.

Chilean needle grass can eventually form exclusive stands and it is good at blending in with other grasses whilst it is getting established. It is flowering at this time of the year (spring/summer) but looks rather like Brome grass (*Bromus diandrus*) and native spear



grasses (*Austrostipa* species), both of which are also flowering and setting seed.

The Coal River Valley is a known hotspot for CNG in SMC. However, if you see it on a roadside somewhere, or suspect it is on your property, please get in touch.



Tasmania's Most Sustainable Community announced "Oatlands"

Keep Australia Beautiful Tasmania has announced the winner of the 2022 Tasmanian Sustainable Communities - Tidy Towns Awards. The winner was announced by The Hon Roger Jaensch, Minister for Environment and Climate Change, at the KABTas Awards event held at Parers, King Island Hotel on Thursday 8th December.

The most outstanding entry received came from Oatlands in the Southern Midlands Municipal area.

Oatlands, a living, working heritage village is the largest intact Georgian village in Australia with 83 heritage listed buildings in the main street.

KABTas State judge, Lona Turvey, was particularly impressed with the number of initiatives dedicated to improving the financial and social wellbeing of the community.

The immensely successful Bullock & Heritage Festival returns an estimated \$280,000 into the community with more than 750 volunteer hours contributing to this successful event. Local businesses were in wholehearted support throughout the festival weekend and the Southern Midlands Council worked hard to ensure the village of Oatlands was presented in stunning form.

The new Oatlands Aquatic Centre with its thoughtful engineering to conserve water and minimize energy costs brings a wonderful new amenity to provide many years of recreational benefit to the village.

The state judge also singled out the Callington Park Destination Playground as a perfect example of how the council values the opinions and needs of the community. The playground design was developed with the input of

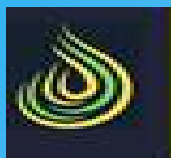


Oatlands District High School students and is now a roaring success. The Council has an ongoing Community Charter with the school.

Climate Change Adaptation, weed management, flora and fauna biodiversity as well as the arts, gardens, heritage and community health and wellbeing are all strongly represented in this thriving village.

Minister for Environment and Climate Change, Roger Jaensch, congratulated Oatlands for being named the winner for the 2022 Tasmanian Sustainable Communities – Tidy Towns Award.

"It is clear the people of Oatlands take great pride in the area's heritage and community spirit. This is a fantastic achievement and I was honoured to present the award," Minister Jaensch said.



**Oatlands
Aquatic
Centre**









Term 1, 2023 Program Details

- Program Description:** Once a week lessons, same day and time each week during the school term.
- Pre-Lesson Assessments:** Free assessments are on offer Monday to Friday, please call on 6254 5024 to make a time today!
- Enrolment:** Once a free assessment has been completed an enrolment form will need to be completed and submitted.
- Cost:**
 Monday: \$90.00 (6 weeks)
 Tuesday: \$120.00 (8 weeks)
 Wednesday: \$120.00 (8 weeks)
 Thursday: \$120.00 (8 weeks)
 Friday: \$120.00 (8 weeks)
- Lesson Time:** 30 minute classes

Term 1 Timetable: Monday 6th February to Sunday 2nd April

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY		SATURDAY
3:30pm	D1	D2	D3	D4	SI	9:30am	D1
4:00pm	D3	D4	D1	D1	D2	10:00am	D2
4:30pm	D2	MS	D2	D3	D4	10:30am	D3
5:00pm	SI	D3	D4	MS	D1	11:00am	D4
						11:30am	SI/MS

Baby/Infant 30 minute classes will be conducted on Tuesday and Thursday mornings 9:15am to 9:45am.
 *Please note that if lessons book out Centre Staff will look at adding additional classes, we will also look at introducing Sunday classes moving into Term 2, 2023.

<p>Development 1 – 4 students per class</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allow water to free flow over head Blow continuous bubbles Submerge underwater (Goggles) Submerge, open eyes & bubbles (No Goggles) Collect object off stairs, shallow end Free movement / sculling Front & Back Float with aid Jump In & Submerge (Shallow) 	<p>Development 2 – 5 students per class</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Front Float & recover unassisted Back Float & recover unassisted Submerge, collect object in deep water Front & Back Glides 3m unassisted Front & Back Kicking 5m (Kickboard) Front & Back Torpedo's 3m unassisted Jump In & Recover (Deep) Treading Water / sculling action 	<p>Development 3 – 5 students per class</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freestyle Arm Action 5m Backstroke Arm Action 5m Kicking with board turning head and shoulder to breath Treading Water & return to the side (30secs) 12.5-25m Freestyle correct breathing recognised 12.5-25m Backstroke recognised Knee Dive 
<p>Development 4 – 5 students per class</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50m Freestyle recognised 50m Backstroke recognised Treading Water (1minute) Breaststroke kick on front & back with aid Survival Backstroke arm progression Standing Dive 25m Freestyle with efficient stroke 25m Backstroke with efficient stroke 	<p>Stroke Improvement – 6 students per class</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50m Freestyle with efficient stroke 50m Backstroke with efficient stroke Breaststroke Pull (Arms Only) Breaststroke timing 25m – glide, pull, breathe then kick, glide Introduction of dolphin / butterfly kick Tumble Turns Step 1 (Forward Roll) Treading Water (2minutes+) 200m mixed strokes continuous swim 	<p>Mini Squad – 6 students per class</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Butterfly Arms & Timing Learn to read / use timing clock Complete Freestyle & Backstroke tumble turns Diving off the block 100m Freestyle with efficient stroke 100m Backstroke with efficient stroke 50m Breaststroke with efficient stroke 400m mixed strokes continuous swim (13minutes) Learning to take Heart Rate 

Water Safety Sessions – During each Term Program there will be 1 full week put aside for water safety programs for all levels

- Wear a floatation device (PFD / Life Jacket)
- Safe water entries
- Boat Safety & Equipment required
- Survival swim in clothes
- Reach & Throw rescues



Bookings

**Phone:
03 62545025**

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 ratable 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

OATLANDS AQUATIC CENTRE 70 High Street Oatlands

Phone: 6254 5024

Email: oac@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au

Opening Hours:

Monday—Friday 7.00 a.m.—7.00 p.m.

Sat 9.00 a.m.—5.00 p.m. Sunday 10.00 a.m.—5.00 p.m.

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 - 5.00 pm

Saturday 1.00 pm - 5.00 pm

Sunday 1.00 pm - 5.00 pm

Service Tasmania

71 High Street, Oatlands

Phone 1300 13 55 13

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

COUNCILLORS—2022

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

Mayor Edwin Batt	0400 009 471	ebatt@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au
Deputy Mayor Karen Dudgeon	0428 361 807	kdudgeon@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au
Clr Tony Bisdee OAM	0418 355 158	abisdee@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au
Clr Rowena McDougall	0466 816 882	rmcdougall@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au
Clr Don Fish	6255 5157	mail@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au
Clr Donna Blackwell	0408 146754	dblackwell@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au
Clr Fraser Miller	0497 611777	fmiller@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**