



Newsletter

Issue 2 | March 2019



MAYORS REPORT

It is with great pleasure that I can advise the Southern Midlands community of progress across a range of projects and initiatives.

Stronger Communities Grants

Our local Federal MP Brian Mitchell recently announced a total of \$17,000 funding for a range of community Infrastructure upgrades in the Southern Midlands. Projects receiving funding include improvements to the Tunbridge Community Hall toilets, restoration of the Melton Mowbray historic stone trough and upgrading the track surface of the Oatlands Racecourse.

Council will provide an additional \$60,000 contribution toward the completion of these important rejuvenation projects. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Brian Mitchell MP for recommending these projects for funding, and also thank the Federal Government for their generously supporting our community.

Bagdad Primary School – Car Park

Council continues to work with the Department of Education and the Bagdad Primary School to progress the proposed construction of an 'off-street' car park off School Road on the southern side of the School. This project has been made possible through the generous donation of land by the Barham family, who are the adjoining property owners. A revised concept plan has been prepared based on feedback to date, and subject to agreement by all parties, the Plan will be submitted for development approval in the short-term.

Small Scale Kempton Community Health Centre

In relation to this issue, I refer to a previous report where the community was informed that the Southern Midlands Council has been granted \$75,000 by the State Government as its contribution towards a new small scale Community Health Centre to be established in the former Kempton Primary School's principal's residence. In this regard, it is confirmed that Council is still progressing this proposal and there has been ongoing discussions with the Kempton Primary School and the Education Department aimed at finalising a lease arrangement for the building. Linked to the development of the property, I can also confirm that Council is still working with a number of community representatives which is aimed at attracting potential service providers. It is highly likely that a community forum will be held in the coming weeks for the purpose of consulting with the community and trying to identify the types of health and allied services that could possibly be provided from this facility. Further detail will be provided as this comes to hand.

Oatlands Swimming Pool

Bzowy Architecture, in conjunction with the appointed consultants, are progressing with the preparation of final detailed design specifications which will be used as the basis for tender documentation. Following building approval, it is anticipated that tenders will be called in early May. The additional time (and focus) on preparing the detailed specifications takes into account the desire to minimise the likelihood of significant variations during the construction phase, and secondly, to ensure that there is the maximum level of detail which avoids the need of potential tenderers to include substantial contingencies in their respective tender prices.

Better Health Project

Council has entered the second stage of the Better Health Project. Stage 1 was the audit of the Health & Wellbeing services that have historically been provided throughout the Southern Midlands. Principally these services were delivered in the wellbeing space by the Rural Primary Health Service, through the MMPHC, until funding was cut two years ago by the Federal Government. That service gap has now forced Council to seek alternative ways of addressing that issue, to look after our Community. So we are embarking on the development of a Health & Wellbeing Plan for Southern Midlands. Stage 2 commenced with a workshop with Council staff in identifying the contribution that they actually make through the infrastructure & services that are covered in their respective business units. Questions were then asked, do they meet the needs & expectations of the Community, also what could we as a Council do better.

The next stage is a consultation session with members of the Community. We will keep you informed as we travel this developmental journey.

Oatlands National Awards Finalist

As this newsletter goes to print, Oatlands is being judged against the top town in each of the States and Territories in Australia, this is the culmination of the judging with the Tidy Town/Sustainable Community Australian Award to be announced in the first week of April.

Oatlands was judged in October 2018 to be the best Sustainable Community in Tasmania in accordance with national criteria. The National Judge, Gail Langley said that "There is an amazing sense of Community in Oatlands."

Keep your fingers crossed for Oatlands.

Clr Alex Green
MAYOR

CONGRATULATIONS to the recipients of Council's Australia Day Awards

The awards were presented by the Mayor at an Awards Ceremony held at Oatlands on the 26th January 2019. Mr Tony Scherer was also in attendance as Council's Australia Day Ambassador.

Citizen of the Year Award: Mrs Gabrielle Watkins (Kempton) **Young Citizen of the Year Award:** Miss Ashley McOrist-Mitchell (Campania) **Community Event of the Year Award:** Heritage & Bullock Festival



Weed Alert!

Patches of Cumbungi (*Typha latifolia*) have been noticed around Southern Midlands, more than in previous years. Cumbungi poses a serious threat because it is a large and vigorous plant that has the potential to spread rapidly and completely cover waterways and dams. The photo below demonstrates what can occur in a farm dam situation if left uncontrolled. The dam photographed here has become useless for stock water access.



The key distinguishing features of Cumbungi are the large dark brown seed heads and lighter coloured leaves.

Small outbreaks of the plant can be controlled by cutting the plant stems at least 10 centimetres below the water surface level.

January is the optimum time, with follow up at intervals of 4 to 6 weeks. Larger outbreaks can be controlled by spraying with Roundup Biactive at 13ml/litre. Complete coverage of the foliage is required. For more information about controlling Cumbungi you should visit www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au and type 'cumbungi' in the search box in the top right hand corner.



If you find it seeding it is best to carefully cut off each seed head and place it in a strong plastic garbage bag. Try not to disturb the seeds. Seal and store the bag ready for safe disposal or burning later (winter time). With any outbreak, it is unlikely that it will be controlled completely in one season, so a commitment to follow up is essential.

Weed brochures

The Southern Midlands Council has an extensive range of easy to read weed brochures available.

There are brochures on 10 different types of weeds commonly found in Southern Midlands. You can call into the Oatlands or Kempton Council office to collect them.

OATLANDS SWIMMING POOL

Please note that the Oatlands Swimming Pool will be closing on
Sunday, 31st March 2019



CHAUNCY VALE

Visit Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary at Bagdad for a one-of-a-kind experience & a day you'll never forget! With its enchanting nature, heritage, culture and history, Chauncy Vale has shared a role in creating many meaningful experiences for over 3 generations of Tasmanian schools, families, individuals & community groups.

OPEN DAILY

Entry \$2.00 per adult / children free

www.chauncyvale.com

350 Chauncy Vale Road, Bagdad

Projects undertaken through Council's Community Small Grants Program...



Oatlands Golf Club
Sprinkler irrigation project



Oatlands Community Hall
Floor sanding

Chauncy Vale Management Committee
Graphic design & history panels

Bagdad Volunteer Fire Brigade
Oxi-Pro Resuscitator

Tunnack Hall Committee
Electrical upgrade

Central Hawks Junior Football Club
Refrigerator, Chairs & Tables

Colebrook Golf Club
Domestic water tank to clubhouse

Runnymede Volunteer Fire Brigade
Ancillary equipment

Oatlands Community Shed
New work benches

Oatlands Community Association
New chairs

Oatlands School Association
Concrete landing

Tunbridge Hall Committee
Commercial Dishwasher

Bagdad Child Care Centre
Childrens activity area upgrade

TUNBRIDGE

With the February council meeting held in Tunbridge, there came an opportunity for all councillors and staff attending to view the outcomes of just some of the initiatives underway in the township. Many of these being the results of council working collaboratively with the community on a variety of projects over the past year or two. A new commercial dishwasher, partly funded by a SMC community grant dealt swiftly with after lunch dishes and has been a boon for the Tunbridge Town Hall Committee, with an ever growing number of patrons of the hall at monthly market café days and frequent catering bookings.

A major initiative for 2019 will be the renovation and upgrading of the toilet block, with new facilities for disabled access at the Tunbridge Town Hall. This provides public amenities for the community, visitors to the park, patrons of hall market days & to the travelling public coming off the Midland Hwy for a rest stop. The Tunbridge Town Hall committee lodged a successful business case for this much needed project with the Tasmanian Community Fund, receiving a substantial grant. Together with their committee funds and the contribution by Southern Midlands Council the project now proceeds & will include a much needed storage area for the hall. The construction period is currently scheduled between March-May 2019. As part of their support, council will set up portable toilets for the necessary period of the building and site reclamation works, so that there will be no disruption to providing facilities for the public and hall guests.

Working with the Tunbridge community, council has implemented many elements of Phase 1 and 2 of the Tunbridge Streetscape Plan (tree planting in two street locations and in the park adjacent to the childrens' playground & picnic facilities) as well as requested signage, regular maintenance and working with Northern Midlands Council on the northern entrance to the town. There is a bright new addition adjacent to the town hall, with council assisting the local initiative of establishing the Tunbridge Street Library. Part of the global streetscape network, this affords the community & visitors with a wide variety of genres (pleasingly this has included children's books) and to provide a reading resource for the community; the colourful little library has been attracting overseas and interstate visitors!

www.streetlibrary.org.au



Tunbridge Street Library opening



Photo courtesy of Heritage Horse Drawn Carriages Pty Ltd

2019 MOOD FOOD KEMPTON FESTIVAL on Sunday, 17 February 2019 was a great success!

Belgian Flyer lived up to its name and won the ever popular sheep racing championship at the Kempton Festival.

Congratulations, to all the dedicated committee members & sponsors of the Kempton Festival Committee on organising another successful event.



Council awards Road Reconstruction & Reseal Tenders

The Southern Midlands Council, at its meeting held 26th February 2019, awarded the following tenders:

Road Reconstruction (including reseal works) - awarded to Stabilised Pavements of Australia (SPA) for an amount of \$284,600. Major roads to be reconstructed and resealed include 1.4 kilometres of Glen Morey Road, Tunbridge and total of 1.4 kilometres on Woodsdale Road, Woodsdale in two sections. As part of this tender, Roadways Pty Ltd will be responsible for the sealing component.

Road Reseal only—awarded to Roadways Pty Ltd for an amount of \$190,050. Major roads for reseal include Interlaken Road, Oatlands; & a number of roads within Bagdad and Colebrook township areas.

These contractors will also be used to complete other minor roadworks within the municipal area.

Works are scheduled to be under taken over the next few weeks and road users are requested to adhere to the road signage directions.



area connect
1300 651 948 | www.areaconnect.org.au

New Kempton & Colebrook Bus Services were launched on Wednesday, 6th February 2019 by Area Connect.

KEMPTON Free service runs Mon-Fri
Kempton to Glenorchy & return Glenorchy to Kempton

If traveling from Glenorchy to Hobart and surrounds you can connect to another service provider ie Metro or O'Driscolls Bus Services at travellers own cost .

COLEBROOK Free service runs on the first Wednesday of the month

Colebrook to Hobart & return (replaces the Tassielink service)

For more information or to book your seat please phone **1300 651 948** or www.areaconnect.org.au



Archaeology Dig at Picton Station reveals the local convict past!

Between 20 January and 4 February, archaeological excavations were undertaken at the Picton Road Station (1838-1844). Representing a new partnership between Southern Midlands Council & the University of Tasmania, the dig was co-directed by Eleanor Conlin Casella (UTas Professor of Archaeology) & Brad Williams (SMC Heritage Manager), plus an enthusiastic crew of 10 students and 3 staff.

Located on private land approximately 4 kilometres north of Kempton, this archaeological project examined daily life for residents at the Picton Convict Road Station.

Established in 1838 as a set of huts, by 1841 the site had been expanded into a full sandstone quadrangle consisting of a chapel/mess hall, three male convict dormitories, a hospital, cook & bakehouse, carpenter's shop, dry store and meat store – all arranged around a central block of 6 solitary cells. The Picton Station accommodated up

to 160 convict men assigned to initial construction of the Midlands Road.

Exciting results of the 2019 archaeology season included excavation of 6 trenches, all located to explore the preservation and overall dimensions of building foundations from the Picton quadrangle. Original stone footings were discovered for the men's dormitories, hospital & carpenter's shop, dry store, and chapel. Additionally, a range of mid-19th century artefacts were retrieved, including fragments of olive glass rum and beer bottles, olive glass gin case bottles, handmade nails, British import transfer-print ceramics, copper-alloy sewing pins, and fragments of two iron hammers. These artefacts are undergoing conservation treatment through the Southern Midlands Council's heritage laboratory in Oatlands, and will be on display to the public in the future. The archaeology team look forward to their next dig season during January 2020!



Council Roadside Waste and Recycling Collection Service

The fortnightly waste & recycling collection service, which includes use of the 240lt wheelie bins, has recently been reviewed by council as the service has now been in operation for six months. Council acknowledged that the service is working extremely well, but it was noted that some residents might prefer the smaller wheelie bins as it would be easier for them to place on the kerbside.

Whilst this would require Council to purchase new coloured lids (to suit the smaller 140 litre bins), in the first instance the aim is to identify the number of residents that may wish to use the smaller bins.

If you would like to swap your 240lt wheelie bin for a smaller 140lt wheelie bin please contact the Council Office on 6259 3011 & register your interest. Please note that there will be a delay in swapping the bins as the new lids will need to be purchased and delivered etc.



MELTON MOWBRAY

The Southern Midlands Council recently held a community meeting at Melton Mowbray.

This meeting was primarily arranged for the purpose of discussing the return of the

historic Sandstone Trough, and the development of an area where the Trough is to be located.

The meeting, chaired by Deputy Mayor Edwin Batt, was extremely well attended and it also provided an opportunity to raise and discuss other issues affecting the township.

A number of issues raised were raised in relation to the Highlands Lakes Road which have since been referred through to the Department of State Growth as the responsible road authority. Such issues included the need to reduce vehicle speed through the township; drainage from the Highlands Lakes Road; and other road safety matters. Other things raised included relocation of the Australia Post Mail Box and the need for a Community Noticeboard.

As an outcome of the meeting, a representative group from the community will prepare a draft concept Plan for the 'park-area' where the Trough will be sited. This group will report back to the broader community at a follow-up meeting.

For the latest Council news visit:

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



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 - Closing 31/03/2019

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.

Season closes 6.00 p.m.— Sunday 31 March 2019

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.



Tasmanian
Government

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 General Enquiries
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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