



Newsletter

Issue 2 | March 2020



MAYORS REPORT

The last 12 months have witnessed extraordinarily dry conditions throughout the Southern Midlands. We have also seen bushfires that caused extensive damage to properties in the Pelham and Elderslie areas. The Southern Midlands Council has been lobbying for recognition of drought status by the Federal Government, however, we have so far been unsuccessful. Although, within Tasmania other local government areas, including Devonport, have met the rainfall deficiency criteria and have been drought declared, so far Southern Midlands has not met these strict requirements. We are continuing to seek drought recognition and assistance for our affected communities.

The State and Federal Governments have a number of assistance packages available to drought affected farmers. In Tasmania the Rural Relief Fund has been established by the State Government. Grants of up to \$1500 are available for immediate help with direct household expenses through to farm business expenses. Further amounts of up to \$5000 may be available upon completion of an Action Plan developed in conjunction with a financial specialist. These grants are administered by Rural Business Tasmania, and they can be contacted on 1300 883 276 or at www.ruralbusinesstasmania.org.au

Information on the full range of assistance and other programs for farmers are also available at www.farmhub.org.au

On a more positive note, I think we are all very proud to see a number of local people being recognised in the recent Australia Day Awards for service to the Southern Midlands and wider community .

Recipients of awards included Bob Annells PSM AO, Paul Wilson OAM and Colin Howlett OAM. We would like to extend our warm congratulations to all three on receiving the awards.



Clr Alex Green
MAYOR



Looking after your yard..

Overgrown or unsightly properties can be both a nuisance and a danger to neighbours and the community. All residents have a responsibility to keep their properties neat and tidy and to improve the appearance of our community, remove harborage for vermin to breed and reduce health risks. Unsightly properties can occur when objects or materials that are brought onto or allowed to accumulate on any vacant land, residential or commercial property, seriously affecting the aesthetic of the property.

Materials generally classified as unsightly include discarded or disused machinery, second-hand materials and similar objects, as well as derelict vehicles, old whitegoods, building materials and household waste.

Responsibilities of residents

Keeping your yard free from overgrown vegetation and objects makes our communities more visually appealing for everyone - here are a few tips on good ways to keep order in your property:

- Store goods out of sight in your garage and shed; ensure you put your rubbish out for collection each fortnight; store objects and materials out of view and neatly stacked to ensure they do not harbour vermin; dispose of old vehicles & machinery – some metal recyclers may collect and remove them free of charge; cut or slash your grass regularly; grass on larger properties (over 10,000m²) is not expected to be maintained to the extent of a lawn in an urban area.

Member of the Order of Australia (AM) Order of Australia (OAM)

Congratulations to **Mr Bob Annells AM**, **Mr Paul Wilson OAM** and **Mr Colin Howlett OAM** who were recently awarded in the 2020 Australia Day Honours.

These awards recognise Bob's service to tourism & business in Tasmania; Paul's significant contribution to the Oatlands community over many years; and Colin's contribution to both local government & the Southern Midlands.



nominate today at
www.volunteeringtas.org.au
open until 30th March, 2020



ST JOHNS WORT CONTROL 2020

THANKS FOR YOUR REPORTS!

Your eyes on the ground are helping us reduce priority weeds in the Southern Midlands. This St Johns wort roadside infestation on Memorial Avenue, Kempton, will now be included in our roadside weed control program. Thanks to the Kempton resident who reported this weed.





Dr Robert Simpson retires

Council, along with the entire Southern Midlands Community, wish to sincerely thank RAS for his outstanding care & service to the community over the past 41 years. We wish RAS all the very best in his retirement.



Harmony Week (15th-21st March 2020) celebrates Australia's cultural diversity.

It's about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone.

For stories and events go to www.harmony.gov.au

Community Bushfire Fundraisers

Many thanks to Brian & Lyn Fish for organising a community bushfire fundraiser on the 8th February 2020 in Oatlands. The event raised \$4841.75 plus donation of labour to the value of \$500 by Rick Crouch Carpentry. All monies raised have been provided to the Broadmarsh/Elderslie Progress Association to distribute to those affected by the Pelham/Broadmarsh fires.

A family fun day was also held at the Bagdad Community Club on the 15th February 2020 to raise funds for the fire fighting efforts.



THANK YOU
to all of our wonderful community members who so freely volunteer their time on our local Fire Brigade, SES & Ambulance units to keep our communities safe.

Tasmanian Irrigation SOUTH EAST INTEGRATION PROJECT

Tasmanian Irrigation is delighted to be working collaboratively with South East landowners to design, construct and deliver high-surety irrigation water as part of a two-stage approach.

An extremely well attended community meeting was held on the 2nd March 2020 to discuss this project and the potential for landowners to secure long-term, reliable irrigation water. This meeting provided updates on the Expression of Interest process and progress on the Project, as well as planning for the South East Interim Solution.

The South East Integration Project will provide additional irrigation water to existing and new irrigators, interconnect all three schemes and standardise the systems. Approximately one third of landowners are located in new areas such as Brighton, Broadmarsh, Elderslie, Gretna and Rosegarland. It is expected that construction on this longer-term project, subject to approvals and funding being secured, will take three to five years.

For further information please go to www.tasirrigation.com.au



Convict Archaeology in the Southern Midlands Picton Road Station, Kempton

During January 2020, the second successful archaeological field school was held at the Picton Road Station site near Kempton. The station, constructed around 1840, housed convict men during the construction of the road from Hobart to Launceston and was largely abandoned in the 1850s.

In partnership with the University of Tasmania, council staff assisted with the facilitation of a two-week excavation season which saw 19 students trained in archaeological practice and a successful exhibition at the Kempton Watch House. The excavations revealed areas of the site including the hospital, carpenter's shop, storehouse and solitary cells and built upon the findings of the 2019 season.

We are fortunate to have internationally renowned archaeologist Professor Eleanor Casella of UTas co-directing this project and that this important convict site can become part of wider archaeological stories about those who built the highway and experienced the convict system.

Keep an eye on the progress of this project (and upcoming exhibition & permanent display) via the Facebook page 'Convict Archaeology in the Southern Midlands'.

Any enquiries – Brad Williams
bwilliams@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au
or 0418 303 184



For more great stories and photos on this project go to Facebook and like the CASM page →



Convict Archaeology in the Southern Midlands - CASM

UPDATE: Mobile Food Vans Survey



As reported in the January Newsletter, Council are undertaking a survey to understand the views of the community regarding operation of mobile food

vendors/food vans in the Southern Midlands. The survey was requested by Councillors at the December Council meeting, when the idea of forming a policy position around mobile food vendors was raised.

Results so far... At the time of writing, over 100 responses have been received. This is a fantastic result so **thank you** to everyone who has participated! I can report from the responses received to date:

- Around 95% of respondents are in support of mobile food vendors operating in the Southern Midlands;
- We have received responses from people all over the Southern Midlands;
- Most of the respondents are residents and/or local business owners;
- The number of responses from each age group is quite balanced; and
- The online survey has proved very popular, with the majority of responses received so far through this option.

Please note: If you have missed out & would like to participate, there is still time for late responses to be included – please contact Jacqui Tyson (Senior Planning Officer) as soon as possible to get a survey form or have a look on the Council website for the online option.

Next steps: The survey responses will be analysed in more detail and presented in a report to the March Council meeting. Council can then decide if they would like to establish a policy in this space.



OATLANDS SWIMMING POOL

8 Campbell Street, Oatlands

Please be advised that the Oatlands Swimming Pool will be **CLOSING** for the season on

SUNDAY, 29TH MARCH 2020 at 6.00 P.M.

UPDATE: Oatlands Aquatic Centre

Preliminary on-site works relating to the construction of the Aquatic Centre in Oatlands is about to commence. This follows an extensive & lengthy process of rehabilitation of the proposed site (i.e. previous Works Depot). Council & the Project Team surveyors have recently set out the building perimeter with excavation to commence shortly. Council will undertake the trimming of the existing sandstone to get the levels down to the reduced levels required for the pool so that the Tenderer does not have to consider excavation in sandstone for the Pool Hall as part of the Tender process. Numerous contractors across Tasmania & Victoria have been screened and interviewed for several key trade packages.

A tender for the major component of pools and water treatment is due for imminent release while separately, the refined timber framing design for the building is similarly prepared for imminent tender. Council & the Project Team will incorporate the direct selection of these key trades into the overall Major Works Tender currently scheduled for the end of March 2020.



Australia Day

Congratulations to our Australia Day Award recipients who were presented Australia Day Awards by Mayor Alex Green at an Awards Ceremony held on the 23rd January 2020 in Oatlands.

MR PAUL WORLDON CITIZEN OF THE YEAR



Volunteer with the Tunbridge Fire Brigade for the past 43 years; Founding member & current President of the Tunbridge Community Club; National Medal recipient for volunteer service; member of various Tunbridge

community committees. Paul is a valued and significant contributor to the Tunbridge community and a very worthy recipient for Citizen of the Year.



MR SAMUEL BANKS YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Sam has recently completed Year 10 at Oatlands District High School and has achieved significant achievements both academically and sporting. Dux of School; Olympic Change Maker Award recipient; former student leader; Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh Awards; U15's State Cricket team; U16's Captain of Tassie Devils Football Team; Rising Star U16 All Australian Team; AFL Allies Training Academy. Well done Sam!

'PINK UP OATLANDS' COMMUNITY EVENT OF THE YEAR

An amazing \$16,355.95 was raised during the month of October 2019 for the McGrath Foundation in support of breast cancer awareness. This was a hugely successful event that saw the town of Oatlands turn pink! The level of awareness raised along with the many fundraising efforts is something that the entire community can be very proud of.

A special mention must go to event organiser Denise Smith who was the driving force behind such a successful event. Congratulations!





Well done to the organising committee & the Green Ponds Progress Association for another successful Kempton Festival, held on the 16th February 2020.

Record attendances with perfect weather was enjoyed by all with many events and activities throughout the day to keep everyone entertained.

Activities to see & do included the ever popular sheep racing event, a lamb cooking competition with Sam Kekovich; the Bill Barwick Memorial Sugarloaf Fun Run/Walk; ferret racing; sheaf tossing; light horse displays; market stalls and much more.



Easter Arrangements

Oatlands & Kempton Offices will be closing at 4.30 p.m. on Thursday, 9th April and re-opening at 9.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 15th April 2020.

Garbage Collection

There will be no changes to household garbage collections during this period.

Waste Transfer Stations

will be closed on Good Friday (10th April 2020)



COUNCIL MEETINGS

Wednesday, 25th March 2020

Tunnack Hall
2147 Tunnack Main Road, Tunnack

Wednesday, 22nd April 2020

Bagdad Community Club
1661 Midland Highway, Bagdad

Wednesday, 27th May 2020

Broadmarsh Hall
1218 Elderslie Road, Broadmarsh

All meetings commence at 10.00 a.m with Public Question Time scheduled for 10.30 a.m.

All ratepayers and residents are welcome to attend.

Public Open Space contributions for subdivisions

Providing & maintaining quality public open spaces for the community is an important role of Councils. Public open spaces include parks, reserves, gardens, sports/recreation fields and pedestrian or cycle paths and trails. When land is subdivided to create new lots suitable for housing it will increase the local population & therefore increase the demand for public open spaces in that area. As towns and cities grow it is necessary for Councils to provide for new public open spaces and make improvements to the existing ones for the benefit of the community.

In Tasmania, the *Local Government (Building and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1993* (LGBMP Act) gives Councils the power to require a subdivision developer to contribute to the provision of public open space commensurate with the increase in public open space demand likely to be created by their subdivision. The LGBMP Act provides that Council may take up to 5% of the subdivision land area for public open space, or a cash in lieu payment equivalent to the value of 5% of the unimproved land value at the time of subdivision (or a combination of the two up to 5%).

New subdivision proposals are assessed to see if they are large enough or in an area where part of the land would be useful or desirable for a new park, pathway or the like. If there is no part of the land that is suitable for public open space and/or it is a small subdivision, then a cash in lieu payment will be required. Cash in lieu payments must be held by Council in a separate account and can only be used for improving existing public open spaces or purchasing land for public open space when needed. Improvements such as playground equipment, seating, barbecues, paths and trails can be funded from these contributions.

Southern Midlands Council direct these funds to the town/area from which they have been generated to ensure that the local community benefits from the growth in their area.

Please direct any enquiries to Jacqui Tyson (Senior Planning Officer) - Phone: 6254 5050 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 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 & IT

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

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
Elisa Lang (Executive Assistant) - 6254 5004
or via contact details below

Mayor Alex Green	0429 604 153	agreen@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
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**