



Newsletter

Issue 2 | March 2023



From the Mayor's Desk

On 15th March 2023 we will see the official opening of the Oatlands Aquatic Centre. This is a wonderful facility that we can all be proud of. Whilst an opening traditionally sees a large gathering of politicians and officials, I think it's worth reflecting that this project was always community driven and Council responded to the calls of local people to build such a complex. As grateful as Council was for the grant funding received from Federal and State Governments for this project, to me the \$80,000 we received via the previous Station Child Care Centre exemplified the strong community spirit that was backing Council in its endeavors to see the project through. I trust it will be thoroughly enjoyed by many for a long time.

Council's focus on ensuring our other recreational facilities are up to the mark continues. The replacement of four light poles and lights will soon be completed at the Kempton Recreation Ground in readiness for the Central Hawks Juniors, and the Woodsdale Football Club (participating in the Oatlands District Football Association) who will play its home games at that venue. Next door to the Kempton oval, works are to commence very shortly on the establishment of the 'off-lead' dog park. The drainage challenges at Campania oval are being met too to enable great footy to be again played there.

As we leave summer behind us and the municipality dries out, road and pavement repairs, and maintenance of road-side drains can continue effectively. However we must be mindful that as our climate changes, the large rainfall events of last spring may well reoccur. The problems around Bagdad especially need long term assessment and planning and to this end Council has allocated funding to undertake a hydraulic study of the entire Bagdad/Mangalore valley (refer separate article in this Newsletter).

The challenge to have the Tunbridge Bridge operational again is frustrating for everyone. Council will continue to lobby the Department of State Growth and responsible State Government Ministers for a solution.

On a lighter note it was great fun to be part of the Kempton Festival on 19th February 2023. This event was a triumph for the Festival Committee who had the day in planning for six months. The Kempton families who put the day on need hearty congratulations. The community spirit of our municipality was again to the fore as Oatlands won the 2022 Sustainable Community Tidy Towns Award which was presented in December 2022.

Cllr E Batt, Mayor

Local Government Reform

Further to the information included in the August 2022 edition of the Council Newsletter, the Local Government Board has now issued its Stage 2 Report entitled 'The future of local government review – Options Paper'. For those that may have not read the previous Council report, the Tasmanian Government has commissioned a Local Government Board Review into the Future of Local Government in Tasmania.

The objective of the Review is to create a more robust and capable system of local government that is ready for the challenges and opportunities of the future. The Board will make recommendations on the future role, functions and design of local government and the structural, legislative and financial reforms required to meet this objective.

The Local Government Board issued an Interim Report in July 2022 which was prepared at the conclusion of Stage 1. That stage involved an assessment of the issues and a range of other matters. The Report identified a number of priority reform areas for the review moving forward based on a series aspirational statements that were reported in relation to both the future role of local government and its essential capabilities.

The Stage 2 Options paper, which can be viewed at www.futurelocal.tas.gov.au/publications provides commentary on the Board's journey so far; details the enduring importance of local communities; considers the future role of local government; reports on potential reform outcomes; and contains a section titled 'Building local government capability and capacity now and for the future'.

The report concludes with three potential pathways:

1. Significant (mandated) sharing and consolidation of services
2. Boundary consolidation to achieve fewer, larger council's and/or
3. A 'hybrid' model combining service consolidation with boundary reform.

The Southern Midlands Council has considered this Options Paper in detail, and in response has lodged a submission with the Local Government Board.

A copy of the submission can be accessed from the Council's website www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au. In terms of the process from here, the Board is expected to finalise its next Report by the end of March 2023. This report will then be provided to the Minister for Local Government, the Hon Nic Street MHA, for consideration and future direction to the Board.



Beekeeper Registration

Are you a beekeeper?

As part of the implementation of the Biosecurity Act 2019, beekeeping is now considered a 'regulated dealing' and under the Act, a person must not engage in a regulated dealing unless they are registered. Therefore, registration is now compulsory for all

Tasmanian commercial and recreational beekeepers. This requirement was formalised in new Biosecurity Regulations 2022 which came into effect on 2 November 2022.

The requirement to register under the Act extends to beekeepers who were previously registered under the Animal Health Act 1995.

More information about who needs to be registered and the conditions of registration can be found by contacting Biosecurity Tasmania by phone on 6173 0225 or at the following website:

<https://nre.tas.gov.au/biosecurity-tasmania/animal-biosecurity/animal-health/bees/beekeeper-registration>

Starting an Agritourism Business

The Tasmanian Agritourism Toolkit can be accessed by visiting the following website:

www.business.tas.gov.au and searching 'Agritourism'.



Weed Alert

Even though it is a prickly weed of roadsides, pastures and crops, is competitive once established and difficult to control, Californian thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), is not your average thistle...



Of the seven declared thistles in Tasmania, Californian thistle is:

- The only perennial (long-lived) thistle,
- The only one to develop extensive rhizomatous (creeping horizontally-growing) root systems,
- The only one to have male and female flowers on separate plants.

Infestations will usually start off with patches of plants, and stems can grow to around 1m high. Purple/mauve (sometimes white) flower clusters form at the top of the stem, and produce a sweet honey smell.

Often an infestation will have only male or female plants, and most seed will not be viable. However, if both sexes are present, seeds will be viable and the plant will spread by roots **and** seeds.

Even though the above-ground growth dies back each winter, the root systems remain alive. Indeed, individual plants have been known to spread roots 13m horizontally and 6m downwards in one year!

Various control methods can be found at the Department of Natural Resources and Environment declared weeds index, <https://nre.tas.gov.au/invasive-species>.

Kempton Festival

The 20th Kempton Festival was held on Sunday 19th February. A full program of events and activities, together with magnificent weather, ensured that a large crowd was in attendance with people travelling from far and wide. Many coming to see the now famous 'Sheep Races' which are unique to the Kempton Festival.

The Festival was officially opened by the Hon Guy Barnett, Mayor Edwin Batt and Martin Turmine representing the Old Kempton Distillery who is the Festival's major sponsor.

Congratulations to all members of the Kempton Festival Committee who commit many hours to the organisation and management of the event. The many volunteers that also assist in the lead-up to the event should also be acknowledged and thanked.



Grant Success Southern Midlands Council

In recent weeks Council has received confirmation that it will receive grant funding for two key projects.

Australian Government's Remote Roads Upgrade Pilot Program – Interlaken Road



Council has secured an amount of \$5,346,180 to reconstruct and seal the entire length of Interlaken Road that is within the Southern Midlands Council area. This extends for a distance of approximately 15.70 kilometers commencing from the Midland Highway.

Detailed project design specifications will now be prepared and in accordance with the Grant requirements, the project will proceed to tender in the latter part of this calendar year.

Natural Disaster Risk Reduction Grant Program (NDRRGP) – Bagdad - Mangalore Hydraulic Assessment – Flood Mitigation.

This project is focused on the main population and transit areas around Bagdad and Mangalore. It is aimed at understanding and being able to manage current and future flooding hazards in these locations.

The Assessment will provide detailed results and supporting area maps and modelling to understand the interaction of storm water with the existing and potential future land usages.

Council will receive a Grant amount of \$80,300 with a similar contribution being made by Council either in cash or 'in-kind'.

A Consultant will be engaged to undertake the assessment and the process will involve working with (and consulting) private property owners and a range of other stakeholders.

The aim is to complete the assessment by December 2023.

Roaming Animals

In recent times, Council has received an increased number of reports of dogs (and other animals) straying in the Bagdad and surrounding areas.

It is timely to remind all pet owners of the need to take appropriate measures to ensure that their animals cannot stray from the property where they are kept.

Under the *Dog Control Act 2000* Council can issue an Infringement Notice for 'Dogs at Large' which will incur a cost of \$181.00. Where other animals are found straying on a Council road or in a public area, they may be impounded and the full costs associated with the impoundment will be recovered from the owner of the animal(s).

It is advised that Council's Animal Control Officer will be undertaking additional patrols of these areas in an endeavour to address the number of complaints being received.

Mt Pleasant Recreation Ground New Player Change Rooms Project Progress Report

In February 2022 the Mt Pleasant Football Club were notified of the success of their grant application to the Department of Communities Tasmania. The grant is to undertake works for new team shower and toilet facilities. The total cost of the project is anticipated to be \$280,000, which includes funding contributions from the Mt Pleasant football and the cricket clubs, AFL Tasmania, with the Southern Midlands Council providing \$25,000. The project commenced in October 2022. The grant funds are being administered through the Southern Midlands Council.

The old change rooms both had one toilet, a urinal and one shower bay area for each of the teams. After decades of use the facilities were in a bad state of repair and had reached the stage that they needed to be completely redone. Cracks had developed in a number of locations at the slab and wall junctions, giving rise to damp course issues that had become impossible to manage. The grant provided for a perfect solution to rectify the situation.

The new player shower and toilet facilities are located in a new extension to the rear of the building. The area has been designed for unisex use, each with four showers and three toilets and hand basins. Floor and wall tiling is currently underway after which the shower and toilet cubicle partitions are to be installed along with the toilet, basin and shower hardware. The water will be gas heated. It is hoped that the project will be completed by the end of March in time for the football season commencing later in April.



Electric Vehicle Charging Station is up and running in Oatlands

The Oatlands Aquatic Centre park is the location of the first EV Charging Station in Oatlands. Clive Attwater, the Managing Director of Electric Highway Tasmania Pty Ltd (EHT) said “It is good to have the Oatlands Aquatic Centre site commissioned and operational even though it is not formally on the Chargefox network. As such it is currently free to use without any payment or access requirements. We have had users already avail themselves of the site.”

Clive advises that there are still a number of things that are required to be completed:

- The angle parking requires a longer cable to reach vehicles with charge ports near the rear of the car (eg Teslas) as they cannot safely back into the bay. These use CCS2 connectors so we have ordered two longer cables (7m instead of 5m) for the CCS ports so these EVs will be able to use the site safely. We expect these to arrive in early January and be installed as soon as possible once received. Once they are installed we will formally announce the site open and begin billing for use.
- We will be installing an AC charger and credit card reader between the two DC charge posts. We expect this to be available in Q1 2023. This will include a post for signs (No parking unless charging, and video surveillance notice).
- We will be adding some EHT logos, instructions, pricing information etc to make the site easy to use. These will be added when steps one and two are being done.

Council’s Deputy General Manager, Andrew Benson said “This is an exciting addition to the Oatlands visitor engagement offering, which has been brought about by the State Government funding through the Department of State Growth’s, Renewables, Climate and Future Industries Tasmania (ReCFIT) funding program, that was applied for by Council under the Electric Vehicle ChargeSmart Grants Program.



Oatlands Aquatic Centre

The new Oatlands Aquatic Centre is a state-of-the-art facility that includes a six-lane 25-metre pool, GYM Activities Room and Kids Play Pool.

The Oatlands Aquatic Centre has a program available for everyone!

Lap Swimming
Gentle Exercise/Walking Area
Learn to Swim Classes (Adults & Children)
Aqua Aerobic Classes
GYM Space
Fitness Classes
Personal Training
General Play

The Centre's Opening Hours are as following;

Monday: 7:00am – 7:00pm
Tuesday: 7:00am – 7:00pm
Wednesday: 7:00am – 7:00pm
Thursday: 7:00am – 7:00pm
Friday: 7:00am – 7:00pm
Saturday: 9:00am – 5:00pm
Sunday: 10:00am – 5:00pm

For more information please give us a call on 6254 5024.



2023 Council Meeting Schedule

DATE	VENUE	TIME
Wednesday, 22nd March 2023	Tunnack Hall 2147 Tunnack Main Road, Tunnack	10.00 a.m. <i>Public Question Time 10.30 a.m</i>
Wednesday, 26th April 2023	Campania War Memorial Hall 45 Reeve Street, Campania	10.00 a.m. <i>Public Question Time 10.30 a.m</i>
Wednesday, 24th May 2023	Runnymede Recreation Ground Woodsdale Road, Runnymede	10.00 a.m. <i>Public Question Time 10.30 a.m</i>
Wednesday, 28th June 2023	Kempton Council Chambers 85 Main Street, Kempton	10.00 a.m. <i>Public Question Time 10.30 a.m</i>
Wednesday, 26th July 2023	Oatlands Council Chambers 71 High Street, Oatlands	10.00 a.m. <i>Public Question Time 10.30 a.m</i>
Wednesday, 23rd August 2023	Kempton Council Chambers 85 Main Street, Kempton	10.00 a.m. <i>Public Question Time 10.30 a.m</i>
Wednesday, 27th September 2023	Oatlands Council Chambers 71 High Street, Oatlands	10.00 a.m. <i>Public Question Time 10.30 a.m</i>
Wednesday, 25th October 2023	Kempton Council Chambers 85 Main Street, Kempton	10.00 a.m. <i>Public Question Time 10.30 a.m</i>
Wednesday, 22nd November 2023	Oatlands Council Chambers 71 High Street, Oatlands	10.00 a.m. <i>Public Question Time 10.30 a.m</i>
Wednesday, 13th December 2023	Kempton Council Chambers 85 Main Street, Kempton	2.00 p.m. <i>Public Question Time 2.30 p.m</i>
Annual General Meeting Wednesday, 13th December 2023	Kempton Council Chambers 85 Main Street, Kempton	5.00 p.m.

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

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	03 6255 5157	mail@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au
Clr Donna Blackwell	0408 146 754	dblackwell@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au
Clr Fraser Miller	0497 611 777	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**