



Newsletter

Issue 4 | November 2022



MAYORS REPORT

Welcome to my last Mayor's report. It has been an honour and privilege to serve the Southern Midlands community as Councillor for the last fifteen years, including four years as Mayor.

There is much that I am proud of accomplishing through this time, ably assisted and supported by fellow Councillors and our excellent staff. It is particularly pleasing to see the Oatlands Aquatic Centre now operating, and to be opened to the general public within days. This excellent new facility has been a long-term project for the Council. When I joined Council in 2007 the project had stood still for some time. Through the Oatlands Village Integrated Economic Development Strategy, which I chaired, the site for the new pool was identified and the process initiated to finally see the ambitions of the community fulfilled. It has been a long process, but I strongly believe it has been well worth the wait.

As this newsletter goes to print the new post-election Southern Midlands Council will be on the verge of being sworn in. I would like to take this opportunity to thank both serving and retiring Councillors for their service to the community. It really has been a pleasure working with everyone. I would like to also congratulate the new members of Council on their election, and wish them all the very best for the next four years.

In this farewell, I would like to acknowledge and thank the ratepayers / residents who have taken the time to contact me, over the past fifteen years—with both positive feedback as well as matters to be addressed. I have always appreciated the importance of listening, understanding and where ever possible taking action on both forms of communication. There are many valued relationships that local government has provided the opportunity for me to establish with people in our community, and I have a heightened understanding of the valuable role that volunteers play in assisting Council in delivering its commitments to the community. To the volunteers in our community I say "Thank you very much for your contribution."

In conclusion, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to your new Mayor, Councillor Edwin Batt, who inherits a strong, focused & dedicated team with a tremendous track record. As this is the last Council newsletter for the calendar year, I would also like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a merry Christmas as well as a safe and prosperous New Year.

Clr Alex Green
MAYOR



Oatlands Aquatic Centre—Update

THE EXCITING NEWS is that the Oatlands Aquatic Centre has completed its Occupancy inspections for the inside of the facility and has conducted its first swimming carnival with Bagdad Primary School on Thursday 27th October.



Following on from our first carnival we will be open to the community on 14th November.

Exterior work on the car park; electric car charger station; landscaping; and finishing touches will continue over the coming

months, however this work will not affect the Centre from opening to the public. Staff training is currently under way with a number of new procedures associated with such a facility. This training will be focused during these next two weeks, along with the fine tuning of the Centre's mechanical, filtration, heating and ventilating equipment.

On Saturday 12th November we will be hold a free Community Sports Day Event called

"Come On, DIVE into Southern Midlands".

We have a range of activities organised for the day from Commonwealth Games Medallist and Paralympic swimmer Jacob Templeton to ball skills with Water Polo Tasmania and fun interactive GYM classes. Refreshments will be provided, spot prizes are on offer and all participants will leave with an event bag. Enrolments for this event are open and can be sent in via email.

As always if anyone has any questions on what is on offer at the Oatlands Aquatic Centre don't hesitate in sending me an email and I will endeavour to answer all questions or find the information as required.

We are extremely excited that the light at the end of the tunnel is very bright and shining off the glimmering, clear and warm waters of your new Aquatic Centre. The Aquatic Centre Team are looking forward to seeing everyone very soon at the Oatlands Aquatic Centre.

Enquires please contact Adam Briggs, Oatlands Aquatic Centre Coordinator at 70 High Street, Oatlands or phone 03 62545025 or by email:

abriggs@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au

Tunbridge Bridge, Tunbridge Tasmania



Tunbridge Bridge—Update

In response to some community questions about the upgrade of the Tunbridge Bridge, Council provides the following points:

- The Department of State Growth is responsible for bridge maintenance and upgrades.
- Southern Midlands Council has issued a planning permit for upgrades of the bridge which would allow a 22.5-ton load capacity (a higher capacity than prior to closure) for the portion of the bridge which falls under SMC jurisdiction. The permit will allow the bridge to be upgraded and reopened. The Department of State Growth however sought for repairs to allow for 44-ton traffic.
- 2/3 of the bridge is in the Northern Midlands, 1/3 is in the Southern Midlands (The bridge is owned by Northern Midlands Council).
- The bridge is included on the Tasmanian Heritage Register as well as a Local Heritage Place under the Southern Midlands planning scheme.
- In November 2020, the Department of State Growth lodged a development application for renewal of the bridge structure, using laminated timber beams, a concrete deck and steel railings.
- Council required further information (engineering and heritage) in order to assess the application. This was provided in July 2021.
- Council officers had been in discussion with the Department of State Growth since 2014 regarding how the bridge should be repaired and upgraded. Council's advice has always been that a concrete deck would have an unreasonable impact upon the heritage value of the bridge - which is known to be the oldest timber spanned bridge in Tasmania, and the third oldest in Australia. Council has always encouraged the Department to keep the bridge open, but emphasised that it is an important heritage structure and that a concrete deck would be unlikely to be approved.
- In October 2021, Council approved the application for the upgrade of the bridge, on the condition that the deck be timber. The laminated timber beams and the steel railings were approved.
- The Tasmanian Heritage Council and Northern Midlands Council approved the application (with conditions) but did allow for a concrete deck. It is to be noted that the bridge is not listed on the Heritage Places table of the Northern Midlands Interim Planning Scheme 2013 (therefore heritage was not a consideration).
- The Department of State Growth appealed the Southern Midlands Council condition that the deck be timber, as they consider a concrete deck to be a more durable and economical outcome. It would allow a 44-ton loading, where a timber deck would only allow a 22.5-ton loading. It should be noted that the bridge has never had a 44-ton rating before (in fact in recent years it was reduced to 5-ton).
- The Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal found in favour of Council in the appeal - in that they agreed that the deck should be replaced in timber in order to maintain heritage values. The tribunal also found that a sufficiently durable and fit-for-purpose bridge could be achieved with a timber deck. The decision of the tribunal can be found at <http://www.austlii.edu.au/cgi-bin/viewdoc/au/cases/tas/TASCAT/2022/55.html>
- The matter is now in the hands of the Department of State Growth for their action. The permit issued by Southern Midlands Council allows for the bridge to be repaired to a standard that would allow a 22.5 ton loading, with a timber deck.

Enquiries, please contact Brad Williams, Manager Heritage Projects, Southern Midlands Council 0418 303 184 bwilliams@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au



The Department of State Growth can be contacted on 1800 030 688 or by email: info@stategrowth.tas.gov.au



**Southcentral
Workforce
Network**



Connecting Businesses with Jobseekers

Assisting Employers and Job Seekers in the Brighton, Central Highlands, Derwent Valley and Southern Midlands regions of Tasmania.

Further information visit: <https://www.swntas.org/>

I'm a Job Seeker

I'm an Employer

Jobs Board

Training Opportunities

Significant trees on public land register

Council is seeking to compile a register of significant trees on public land to assist in managing these into the future, in accordance with Council's Management of Trees on Public Land Policy.

A tree may be significant because:

- ◆ Of its age (it may be an early settler planting or represent pre-European settlement).
- ◆ It may be commemorative (e.g. of an event, organisation or person).
- ◆ Botanical rarity (e.g. be uncommon in this area).
- ◆ As a landmark.
- ◆ As a very fine example of its species.
- ◆ As part of a remnant landscape (e.g. associated with a building no longer there).

At this stage, we are seeking nominations/suggestions for trees located on public land, such as:

- ◆ Road verges.
- ◆ Parks and reserves.
- ◆ Recreation grounds.
- ◆ Nature strips
- ◆ Associated with Council buildings (e.g. halls).



At this stage we are not compiling a register of significant trees on private land, however if you would like to nominate a tree on your property, please do so, and we will hold that information for reference.

A nomination form can be found at:

<https://www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au/significant-trees-on-public-land/> or email heritage@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au or call Brad Williams, Manager Heritage Projects on 0418 303 184



Campania Halls Management Committee Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Campania Halls Management Committee will be conducting their Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 22nd November, 2022 at the Campania Hall, Reeve Street, Campania commencing at 7.30 p.m. To ensure the continuation of this Management Committee, new members are urgently required.

All residents of the Southern Midlands Municipal area are invited to attend.

T Kirkwood, General Manager

Waste Management Reminder unapproved materials



Council would like to remind all residents/ratepayers on the roadside collection service that ordinary waste and unapproved materials must not be placed in your yellow lid recycling bin. This includes food scraps, timbers, nappies, organic matter, plastic bags or hazardous materials etc.

- Please do not tie recyclables together with string or twine.
- Please do not place your recyclables in plastic bags.

A list of approved recyclables is provided on Council's website by [Clicking Here](https://www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au/waste-management/) <https://www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au/waste-management/>



Australia Day Awards 2023

Nominations are now open for the Southern Midlands Council Australia Day Awards 2023. These awards recognise the outstanding achievement and excellence of members of our local community.

Residents are invited to nominate a member of the community whose outstanding contribution is deserving of recognition. This could be a friend, family member, workmate or someone you have met while serving the community.

Awards Categories: Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year and Community Event of the Year.

Nomination forms: are available from Council Offices or online at www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au

**Nominations close on Wednesday
30 November 2022 at 4.00 p.m.**

A nomination form can be submitted in person at 71 High Street, Oatlands or by Australia Post to PO Box 21 Oatlands Tas 7120 or by email: mail@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au

Weed Alert: Whiteweed (*Lepidium draba*).

Also known as Hoary cress.

Whiteweed is:

- A declared weed in Tasmania.
- A significant weed of grain crops, pastures, orchards and vineyards. It competes with beneficial plants and its roots produce a chemical which retards grass growth.
- Not very palatable to livestock. If eaten it may taint milk and meat for a week after ingestion. Considered mildly poisonous but rarely eaten in sufficient quantities to cause problems.
- Flowering at the moment and can be seen not only along the Midland Highway but also various roadsides, paddocks and gardens in the Southern Midlands.
- A member of the Brassicaceae family of plants (think mustards, cabbages, broccoli, turnips etc.) but it is **not** edible!
- Very persistent, difficult to manage, and is expanding its range.
- Able to grow an extensive root network and if any roots are broken off, they can sprout into a new plant.
- A producer of large numbers of seeds.



Have you seen it in your garden, paddock or roadside? Many people are not familiar with this weed so if in doubt, give me a ring on 6254 5046 (Mondays and Tuesdays). Alternatively, send a good photo to me via email:

msmyth@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au.

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



Chauncy Vale Activity Day 2022

Over 100 people attended the Chauncy Vale Activity Day on September 25th. Of particular interest was the 'walk on country' organised by representatives of the

Aboriginal community. Participants learned about the intimate connection between indigenous people and country as well as the importance of that connection for the health of both.

It became clear that resources required for survival are plentiful in a healthy landscape. Country was described as their supermarket and hardware store. Foods such as native cherry, sagg rushes, and a variety of seeds were identified and explained. Preferred materials for spear making were pointed out and there was an explanation of the spear throwing prowess of the 'Pakana/Palawa' people.

The 'walk on country' included the Chauncy Vale caves where there was a facilitated period of silence for immersion in the sounds and presence of the bush. There was also a demonstration of hand stencilling. The significance of cultural practices such as rock art and petroglyph carving was explained.

It was interesting to hear a perspective about the health of country in Tasmania. What may appear to be a bio-diverse and healthy system to us can be considered depleted or 'sick' country from an indigenous point of view. Regeneration of country can proceed through implementation of a 'healthy country plan' incorporating traditional indigenous knowledge and practices such as 'cultural burning', for which a practical demonstration was given.

There was plenty for children to engage with at the Activity Day: a Discovery Ranger, Nature-be-in-it, and the Wombat Woodland Walk. The Tasmanian Land Conservancy ran an interesting session on identification and habitat of woodland birds and Heather Chauncy was present at Day Dawn Cottage to talk about the Chauncy family cultural heritage and her family's vision for creation of the Wildlife Sanctuary.

A similar event is planned to be held again next year.

Discussion about 'country' and the resources it provided for the Pakana/Palawa people.

Photo: Graham Green

www.chauncyvale.com



Heritage & Bullock Festival 2022



Photo by Lydia Peacock

The Heritage & Bullock Festival held in Oatlands on the 13th and 14th of August 2022 was a great success, albeit with some challenging weather conditions on the Saturday night and early Sunday morning.

Approximately 5,100 people came along and enjoyed the Festival with all it had to offer. The street parade, Brian and Lyn Fish with their Bullocks being the star attractions, along with, steam engines; Edwin Batt with his theatre company performances in the Supreme Court building; Artisans everywhere in both private spaces and public spaces; Athol plus David from the RT Fish Bakery making wonderful bread at the Commissariat; Michael Isles and Dr Simpson AM (Col. Retd) with their castings/fly tying colleagues, along with historic memorabilia from the Inland Fisheries - Salmon Ponds Museum, thanks to the Director of ILF, John Diggie; volunteers and exhibits

from the Wooden Boat Centre at Franklin; Brian Fish and his Bullock Committee team heating up a steel tyre to put onto a wooden cart wheel; wood splitting, sandstone cutting, shearing, timber lathe work and also John Mathews with a display of his amazing craftsmanship in creating highly detailed scale models of carts and carriages from a bygone era. We estimate that there were over 750 hours contributed to the lead-up and over that weekend by volunteers who donated their time & effort to making this Festival the success that it was. The Council team had the Oatlands Village looking wonderful. The businesses in Oatlands again got right behind the event. Brian Fish along with his Heritage & Bullock Festival Committee have made this event a must see experience. Everyone involved should feel rightfully proud of what we have achieved and indeed continue to achieve. What a great Community effort!! - *Andrew Benson*



Mood Food, Midland Highway, Kempton – Traffic Engineering Assessment

The Department of State Growth (Sate Roads Division) has provided Council with a report on the outcomes of a traffic engineering assessment which was

conducted by the State Roads Division on the Midland Highway in the vicinity of Mood Food at Kempton.

This assessment was an outcome of a Council Workshop which was attended by the General Manager, State Roads in April 2022. It followed a fatal accident just prior to then, and a local community meeting held at Kempton in March 2022.

In summary, the assessment looked at a number of potential options which were put forward for investigation.

These included:

- 1. Reduce the Midlands Highway speed limit from 110kph to 80 kph from a point just south of the north exit from Kempton to a point just north of Mood Food.**

This option was discounted for a number of reasons. The report suggests that where a reduced speed limit has been introduced in isolated locations in the past, it did not have a significant impact on the number of crashes.

- 2. Safety improvements at the Mood Food and north Kempton junctions**

The following is an extract from the report and describes the current situation:

“The Mood Food access has a right turn lane for south bound traffic and a left turn deceleration lane for northbound traffic. Motorists wanting to turn right out of Mood Food can have their sight distance to northbound through traffic obscured by vehicles in the left turn lane. This is a particular issue when heavy vehicles are using the left turn lane and observations indicate that there are a significant number of heavy vehicles turning into the Mood Food access”.

The Division sees merit in offsetting the left turn lane from the adjacent through lane for northbound traffic. This type of treatment, with a chevron providing separation between the left-turn deceleration land and the adjacent through lane,

has been constructed in other locations, and this has significantly reduced the number of crashes.

The report does however conclude that at this stage it is not proposed to carry out any works to offset the left turn lane into the Mood Food access. Its safety performance will continue to be monitored and if a pattern of crashes develops involving right turners being hit by northbound through traffic, alterations will need to be considered.

From a Council perspective, this is not a satisfactory outcome and Council will be lobbying for this treatment as an urgent improvement.

Council is clearly of the view that if the State Roads Division has concluded that there is a problem, and has accepted that future crashes can be reduced or eliminated by further offsetting the left turn north bound lane, why shouldn't this work be undertaken now rather than wait for more crashes to happen.

The traffic engineering assessment also considered other treatment options but these were discounted either due to the prohibitive cost, particularly when compared to the safety benefits, and the impact on Mood Food as a business.

In a related issue, the construction of a walking / bike track from the Kempton township to Mood Food was also noted during the assessment process. It is confirmed that this project is being planned by Council but the actual location of the path (i.e. outside the existing highway reservation) will be influenced by the possible construction of an offset deceleration lane referred to above. It will need to be deferred pending resolution of this matter.

Please contact Council's General Manager, Tim Kirkwood, should you require further explanation or wish to discuss.



PlanBuild Tasmania is Now Live!

Tasmania's enquiry portal for Planning, Building, Plumbing, Public and Environmental Health



Phase one of the PlanBuild Tasmania portal is now live for public use. The Enquiry service allows anyone to enter an address in the portal to see what planning zones and codes apply to a property.

A Property Report can be generated which includes maps, details of the planning zone, codes and other information that affect the selected property.

For those properties that fall under the [Tasmanian Planning Scheme](#), PlanBuild Tasmania provides a comprehensive Guided Enquiry service, including identifying planning, building and plumbing rules that may apply to a proposed project.

A proposed project could include changes to your residential property, such as building a deck, adding a deck or doing internal renovations.

PlanBuild Tasmania will also provide information on food businesses and operating a risk-based business, such as a tattoo parlour that requires specific licenses.

You will be able to work through a series of questions on your proposed project resulting in information on:

- who to consult (e.g. local council, Heritage Tasmania)
- who can do the work (e.g. a licensed builder)
- what to apply for (e.g. a permit).

After completing an enquiry if you have additional questions or want to request advice from a council, this can be lodged online using PlanBuild Tasmania.

Read more [about PlanBuild Tasmania and future functionality.](#)

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

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
Monday to Friday **11.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.**
Phone 1300 13 55 13

Southcentral Workforce Network - www.swntas.org

Part of the Tasmanian Government's Jobs Tasmania network of Regional Jobs Hubs.



Address	Phone	Email	Opening hours
Old Brighton Council Chambers 371 Brighton Rd Pontville, TAS 7030	0418 365 541	anthony.mccannon@brighton.tas.gov.au	Monday - Friday 8.30am - 4.30pm appointments preferred

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
Cir Tony Bisdee OAM	0418 355 158	abisdee@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au
Cir Rowena McDougall	0466 816 882	rmcdougall@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au
Cir Don Fish	6255 5157	mail@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au
Cir Donna Blackwell	0408 146754	dblackwell@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au
Cir Fraser Miller	TBA	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**