



# Newsletter

Issue 2 | March 2017

## Mayors Report



It is with considerable disappointment and concern that I write this report to ratepayers. The State Liberal Government, through the Treasurer (and Minister for Local Government) the Hon Peter Gutwein MP, is on the brink of taking ownership of TasWater. TasWater,

being an independent corporation managed by an independent board of directors that is currently owned by the 29 Councils in Tasmania. It resulted from the merger of the three regional bodies i.e. Southern Water, Ben Lomond Water and Cradle Coast Water.

Should this occur, this will have a major impact on the finances of the Southern Midlands Council, as it will on all Councils in Tasmania.

As owners, all Tasmanian Councils receive a financial dividend from the corporation which is paid in recognition of the investment that ratepayers have made into sewerage and water infrastructure over many decades. This dividend is then used by local government to reinvest back into infrastructure and services for the benefit of the whole local community. Should the Liberal Government follow through and take ownership of TasWater, without any compensation or offset, Council stands to lose an amount which equates to approximately 5% of current Rates income. It goes without saying that removal of this dividend will require Council to consider either higher rate increases; a reduction in services, or a combination of these. All options obviously detriment to the community.

It is important to note that every Tasmanian Council has already agreed to a reduction in dividends which enables TasWater to accelerate its forward Capital Works Program. As a result, all towns which presently have either 'do not consume' or 'boil water alerts' in place, will be fixed within the next two years. This recognises the urgent need to ensure that all TasWater customers have access to good quality drinking water.

In addition, as part of TasWater's ten-year Capital Works Plan (agreed to by the TasWater Board and all Council owners) it will fix all the non-compliant sewerage treatment issues. All at a total cost of some \$1.88 billion. One of the extenuating factors, especially with sewerage treatment, is the fact that the regulators have set higher environmental standards for the operation of sewerage treatment plants and the quality of outflows.

Whilst these increased standards are desirable they can only be achieved at a vastly higher cost for upgrading infrastructure.

It has already been highlighted that a confirmed source of funding is only one aspect of the challenge to reduce the timeframe for planned works, with the need to scope and design the works; undertake community consultation; seek planning permits and finally engaging suitably qualified and experienced contractors being the other part of the challenge which prevents advancing projects within this extremely limited timeframe.

Already, TasWater has invested substantial capital funds to tackle the water and sewerage issues. TasWater are to be commended for their work thus far and we believe that extra funds being made available through a reduction in dividends will enable this to continue over the life of the ten-year Work Program.

The TasWater Owners Representatives group, together with the full support and involvement of the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT), are trying to engage with the Treasurer so that there is a full discussion of the issues and consequences of all Tasmanian Councils losing the financial dividends received from TasWater. The possible and probable consequences being higher than normal rate rises and/or reduction in services.

The next several weeks will be very critical for Local Government in Tasmania and for all Southern Midlands Council ratepayers (and all Tasmanian ratepayers).

*Anthony E Bisdee*

Clr Tony Bisdee O.A.M  
MAYOR

### Change of Date March 2017 Council Meeting

Please note that the March 2017 Council meeting has been re-scheduled to **Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> March 2017**.

This meeting is being held at  
Woodsdale Hall at  
10.00 a.m.



## Rejuvenation a Century Later 25<sup>th</sup> February 2017 was a significant day for Levendale



L-R Mayor Tony Bisdee OAM, Ken Milbourn (Principal 1956 – 1958), Colleen Walker (last Principal), Janice McConnon (former Chairperson of School Association), Bill Free (former Student, School Bus Driver for 54 years), Minister Rene Hidding MP, Barry Neave and Bobby (last Groundsman and his “apprentice”), Jim Wiggins, former Student), Kristy (pup) McConnon (Student), Tom McConnon (Student), Carolyn Green (Student), Joey Birch (Student), Vonnie Crawford ( Student and a Teacher), Beverley Butterworth ( Student and Teacher), Thomas Birch (Student) Carolyn Birch (Student and Chairperson of the last School Association)

The closing of a rural school can be a *signpost on the journey* that marks a significant milestone in the further fragmentation and degradation of the social capital and cohesiveness of our rural Communities, or it could be one of the *stepping stones* on the journey to the future sustainability and success of a rural and remote Community.

The Levendale Primary School in a remote part of the Southern Midlands local government area had a projected enrolment of approximately eight students for the 2014 school year. The school association therefore requested the Education Department to initiate a transition process for the closure of the school at the conclusion of the school year in 2013.

In a remote rural Community, a school is more than just a place to educate children; it influences the Community’s well-being. In addition to building human and cultural capital, schools build and maintain social capital. Schools in rural areas are centres of the District’s social life and have a crucial role in constructing a local identity. For some people, the school is the only site for contact with other local people. Nonetheless, the significance of a rural school is often taken as a given, and the school’s importance does not become evident until the school is threatened. Given the closure of the Levendale School after 113 years, the Levendale Community were shattered.

*“The closing of the school meant that many of the normal Community interactions and cohesiveness were being gradually eroded now that the school has been closed and people are travelling to Sorell or other places with their children. The traditional engagements of*

*Community life are not happening and many people expressed a deep sadness as these matters become a reality in the day to day life of people following the closure of the school”* said Janice McConnon, long-time resident of Levendale.

Southern Midlands Council’s Deputy General Manager, Andrew Benson had convened a number of Community workshops to explore a way forward with the proposed Council ownership of the former school site, he said *“It was distressing to hear these heartfelt comments from a Community that in the past has been an energetic and strong exemplar of Community values coupled with a can do attitude.”*

Mayor Tony Bisdee OAM added *“Southern Midlands Council has been extremely supportive of the efforts of the Community in exploring and developing activities at the Levendale School site, however Council is mindful of the financial and physical implications of taking on additional significant property based assets.”*

History shows that with enthusiasm and commitment Communities can re-energise and shape a very positive future and so it was, at 11.00am on the 25<sup>th</sup> February 2017 a milestone in the Levendale Community was reached when the official hand over of the former Levendale School from the Department of Education to Southern Midlands Council plus the establishment of an exciting new concept of community development through a strategic alliance with the Regional Community Learning & Development Centre – Levendale, Southern Midlands Council and the Edmund Rice Foundation came to fruition.

Known by many young people, the Edmund Rice Foundation (Australia) is an Australian non-government organisation which supports sustainable development projects in developing countries. In particular, the Foundation supports education, health, and vocational training as well as community development projects in Africa, East Timor, Papua New Guinea and the Philippines.

Within Australia, the Foundation supports development programs for children, young people and families, including programs for indigenous Australians. It is in this tranche of its operations that the Strategic Alliance has made its connection. The former Levendale School is now owned by the Council and it will be a “home base” in our region for Edmund Rice Camps Tasmania.

*“This is an exciting transformation for the former school where it will continue to be a centre for learning & development. A new not-for-profit incorporated body has been established called The Regional Community Learning & Development Centre – Levendale Inc, its raison detre is to raise funds and guide/support the activities of the Centre”* said the Chairman of the Board Kerry Vincent (Mayor of Sorrell). Board Members represent Councils in the region, plus, Tasmania Police and a range of other organisations and Community representatives across the region.

In providing effective aid across Communities the strategic alliance will work in partnership with a number of partner groups such as local councils, the Bendigo Bank, Lions Tasmania and a range of schools across Tasmania.

*“We are focusing on Communities in the region significantly benefiting from this relationship of the Edmund Rice Foundation, The Regional Community Learning & Development Centre – Levendale and the Southern Midlands Council”* said Mayor Bisdee.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> February 2017 the sentiment and significance of the site and the buildings continues on as a future focused directional compass point both metaphorically and practically in sustaining social capital in our rural district of Levendale.

Check out the YouTube clip <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v4ejBLhZVM>  
**Carpe Diem – Seize the Day**

## Wandering Animals



Animal Management staff are regularly called out to deal with animals wandering on or near roads, or onto other properties. Wandering animals can become stressed and frightened which may cause them to act unpredictably and dangerously. They are at great risk of injury to themselves, and they also pose a very high risk to road users, pedestrians, stock and other animals.

As the owner/person responsible for the animal(s), you may be financially and legally liable for any damage or injury caused by the animal(s) wandering. This could be injuries inflicted on other animals, ie attacking stock, damage to a vehicle or property and/or injuries to a person. Containing animals adequately is the responsibility of the owner of the animal(s). It is recommended that the following precautionary measures are carried out.

- Check fences regularly, especially during inclement weather, branches/trees falling on fences is a common occurrence, and animals tend to find the potential ‘escape routes’ very quickly.
- Be prepared before storms approach, some dogs and horses in particular are fearful during storms and will make every effort to escape, (enclosing fearful animals in a smaller, safe and familiar place can prevent this.)
- Ensure yards, fences and gates are effective and of a type and height to adequately contain the animals.
- Ensure gates are secure, self-closing mechanisms are easily fitted to most gates, this will ensure the gates aren’t accidentally left open by children or visitors.

Always ensure your animals have access to adequate food and water, hungry/thirsty animals may make every effort to escape in an attempt to find their own!

Wandering animals may be impounded and fees will be payable. Council may issue an order to fix/erect adequate fencing/containment. Unclaimed animals will be rehomed/sold/destroyed and fines may also be issued.

For further information on this or any other animal management issue, please contact Southern Midlands Council Animal Management Officer on (03) 6259 3011, Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 5:30pm.



### Memorial Trees in the Southern Midlands

At this time of the acknowledgement of the Centenary of ANZAC Council is considering the condition, maintenance and enhancement of the local cultural heritage that emanates from the World War 1 period, namely the tree lined Memorial Avenues. Southern Midlands Council have formed a Memorial Tree Committee which reports directly to Council, to progress the re-energising of Memorial Avenues across the Southern Midlands. The first project that the Committee are focusing in is the Memorial Trees in Memorial Avenue, Kempton. The Chairman of the Committee is Cllr Edwin Batt, other members are, Ken Clark, Wayne Smith, Tony Jewson, Garry Francis, Tim Johnson, Maureen Johnson, Philip & Yvonne Morell.

Most of Tasmania's, and indeed Australia's, Avenues were planted during or immediately after the Great War. More were planted after the Second World War and these are often the only memorial to sacrifice and service in that conflict.

The Avenues are a living link to those who served and the communities that honoured them through the planting of trees. In a period of increasing ignorance of the details of either conflict and with media attention and pilgrimages focussed on Anzac Cove and obvious heroes, they are reminder of the role of individuals from every small community across Australia and the sacrifices they and their families made. War may be a collective experience on some levels, but the loss, grief and pain that war brings in its train, is experienced by individual men and women: its heroism and examples of sacrifice come from the acts of individual men and women. The Avenues more than any other form of memorial remind us of these individuals in a personal way.

The continuing family rites of commemoration at these trees remind us of these links. Away from large gatherings at memorials, individuals remembered as people rather than as representatives of armies, nations and great causes. These are our trees planted for our men by our families and communities; they were an expression of local and family identity.

The Avenues were the first memorials to the dead and the serving in many Tasmanian towns. They were largely created by local community committees and funded by donations. They were intended as 'living' memorials that would both beautify a town and serve as a reminder of the individuals who served, and, in many instances, were still serving their country's cause.

They remind us and demand that we understand the effects of war on individuals serving, their families and their communities. Each tree is a person with a name, address, a family, an occupation, friends and community connections through church and sport and politics. They do not allow for platitude and generalisation.

For many years these trees were places of private pilgrimage and commemoration and quite a few still are. They deserve to be remembered and cared for; they represent the last individual living connections that now remain to that time of war.



#### Our request of you:

- ◇ Did you have a relative that served in WW1 or do you know of someone that served in that conflict?
- ◇ If so do you have any photos or indeed any plaques that may have adorned a tree in a Memorial Avenue?
- ◇ Did your family plant a Memorial Tree in recognition of a fallen family member following WW1 in 1918?
- ◇ If you can help us, please contact Andrew Benson, Deputy General Manager  
[abenson@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au](mailto:abenson@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au)  
 Phone 62593011 at the Kempton Office



Residents and business owners can now experience fast broadband over the **nbn**<sup>TM</sup> network with the completion of the **nbn**<sup>TM</sup> network rollout in the Southern Midlands district.

**Need more information?**  
 You can get more information by:  
 Visiting the **nbn** website at [nbnco.com.au](http://nbnco.com.au)  
 Contacting the **nbn** Contact Centre on **1800 687 626**  
 Contacting your internet provider to order your plan over the **nbn**<sup>TM</sup> network or if you experience any issues with your connection.



# Fact Sheet

February 2017

DOC/16/86024 Version: 1.2

## Building a shed in Tasmania

This Fact Sheet covers the requirements for new Class 10 buildings. These are non-habitable buildings such as sheds, garages and carports.

### What checks do I need to make before building?

You need to make sure you are complying with the planning rules. For instance, there may be setbacks from boundaries that you need to consider. Check with your council to make sure your project is not going to contravene the local planning scheme.

You should also check your title to make sure you are not building over an easement and, of course, dial before you dig to make sure you are not interfering with our valuable underground assets.

### What can an owner do?

You can build a small shed up to 18 m<sup>2</sup> without a building permit.

You can erect a prefabricated shed up to 36 m<sup>2</sup> without a building permit. You need to notify the Council on completion using the [Notification of Low Risk Work form](#).

You may apply to the Administrator of Occupational Licensing for a licence as a Building Service Provider (Owner Builder Class 10a) which will mean that you can also build a Class 10a structure such as a shed, carport or garage, as long as you are managing the work at your property.

### What can a farmer do?

If the shed is for farm use (on a rural property) you can erect a prefabricated shed up to 72 m<sup>2</sup> without a building permit. You need to notify the Council on completion.

### What can a licensed builder do?

You can employ a licensed builder to build a shed up to 36 m<sup>2</sup> without a permit. You need to notify the Council on completion.

You don't have to build sheds yourself. If you don't feel you are capable you can employ a competent person or a licensed builder to erect a prefabricated shed up to 36 m<sup>2</sup> without a permit. You need to notify the Council on completion.

For any sheds or similar structures greater than 36 m<sup>2</sup>, you'll need to engage a licensed builder, licensed designer and a building surveyor.

The building surveyor will assess your design. If it's likely to comply with the National Construction Code, the building surveyor will authorise the work and notify the council.

Consumer, Building and Occupational Services  
Department of Justice



## Weeds Have Your Say

### Declared Weeds in Southern Midlands

- ◆ How do we want them managed?
- ◆ What role does Council play with declared weeds on private land?

Council has been actively managing a number of target weeds on the Council roads verges for at least 20 years. Commitment and follow up are proving to be the key to stemming weed spread and ultimately eradicating weed infestations from particular sites.

Unfortunately there are a number of very invasive weeds just managing to get a foot hold in Southern Midlands, and many ratepayers have expressed concern at what is occurring. If left unchecked these weeds will definitely increase over time and prove more difficult to control.

Experience from other locations across Australia show that weeds such as Cotton Thistle, Saffron Thistle, Patersons Curse and Chillian Needle Grass will eventually claim hectares of land whereby the use of the land for agricultural activity ceases. These weeds are now becoming more obvious in the Southern Midlands.

Under the Weed Management Act 1999, these weeds all need to be effectively managed, with the aim of eradication or containment (depending on the weed species). The Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE) have limited resources to deal with all outbreaks of Declared Weeds around the state of

Tasmania, but can provide assistance to Councils and landholders.

A Draft Southern Midlands Weed Management Strategy (the Strategy) is out for comment. Council is keen to hear your views on what the Southern Midlands Council should be doing about weeds. What would you like to see happen in terms of how weed management measures should be enforced (if at all) and the framework for handling weed matters in the Municipality?

All Southern Midlands ratepayers and landholders are strongly encouraged to view the Strategy on the Council web site, and make comment. There is also a second document which lists a number of questions that may assist you develop your comments. The main sections of the strategy to look at are Appendix 1, 2 and 3. For full declared weed identification information and an understanding of their potential to impact it is suggested that the DPIPWE web site be visited.

The Strategy can be viewed on the Council web site under the Latest News section or in person at the Council offices – Kempton and Oatlands. Comments will be accepted up until the close of business Friday 7 April 2017. Comments may be either in writing and sent addressed to the General Manager Southern Midlands Council, 71 High Street, Oatlands 7120, or via email:

[mail@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au](mailto:mail@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au). All comments will be treated as confidential. The final version of the plan will go to a Council meeting for a decision / endorsement.



## National Trust Heritage Festival

Work continues on the Commissariat restoration project in Oatlands with heritage building techniques being undertaken; sandstone walls being repaired, rebuilt and render being removed by the stonemasons. The other heritage building skill being utilised is the split timber shingled roofing initially on the shop and cottage fronting High Street followed by the Commissariat building.

Shingling was a craft that was in high demand in the early days of the Colony with appropriate timber being easily accessible. As time went by more and more was learned about the properties of Tasmanian timbers and their appropriateness in different applications. These skills and bush knowledge were passed through the generations of

bushmen. Today, shingling has become a specialised craft with very few practitioners, but remains highly sought after, particularly in applications such as restoration of significant heritage buildings.

Southern Midlands Council and The Heritage Education and Skills Centre (HESC) invite you join us at the Callington Mill stables, Oatlands to learn about traditional heritage bush timber crafts including split timber roofing shingles, shakes, split timber pickets and post and rail fencing for this National Trust Heritage Festival event. Learn about the process of selecting eucalypt timber used in split timber applications, the first stage of sawing timber into rounds before splitting them into billets, and then see first-hand shingles being split with a froe in a shingle splitting demonstration by Graham Green, one of the last craftsman practicing shingle roofing in Tasmania. Join us for a for a walking tour of the shingled roofs at the Callington Mill site and then to 79 High Street Oatlands to see the split shingle roofing on the Commissariat restoration project including the recently shingled shop and cottage.

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> of May, 11am at the Callington Mill stables building, Mill Lane, Oatlands.**

For the latest Council news visit:

[www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au](http://www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au) or like us on facebook



## Community Event – ‘Meet the Artist -See the Work’ Sat and Sun 18-19 March 10am-4pm at the Oatlands Gaolers Residence, 3 Mason Street, Oatlands.



Southern Midlands Council's Oatlands Gaol Artist in Residence Henrietta Manning is opening the gaoler's residence front door and inviting you to visit. Come and meet the artist in Oatlands and see some of the work she has been doing here, before her major solo exhibition 3<sup>rd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> May at Sidespace Gallery, Salamanca Arts Centre, Hobart.

You may have seen Henrietta's car parked at odd angles at the side of the road when she was painting inside to avoid the wind and rain. Henrietta has also been working inside our heritage buildings such as the Court House, Mill and Gaol, as well as private homes in the area. Henrietta is an established artist exhibiting since 1985 with work selected as a contender for art prizes including The Wynne at the Art Gallery of NSW. A recipient of a number of grants and prizes including the Australia Council 'New Work Established Grant' in 2005 and the Tasmanian 2016 Kingborough Art Prize, she is represented by Colville Gallery, Hobart.

Henrietta is still looking for a few more interiors to paint, so come along at the weekend and perhaps invite the artist into your historic home?

### Congratulations to the recipients of the Southern Midlands Council Australia Day Awards

**Citizen of the Year** - Mrs Christine Dean  
**Young Citizen of the Year** - Miss Tiarna Porter  
**Community Event of the Year** - 'The Big Load'  
 Working Bullock Festival Committee



Photo Credit - Terry Loftus



A Soba Noodle Making Demonstration was held at Callington Mill on the 14<sup>th</sup> February 2017.

Rick Shiratori from Shiratori Flour Mills along with Mayor Bisdee and other invited guests were welcomed and then watched on as Mr Sawayama, a Master Soba Chef from Akita, Japan made noodles from Tasmanian buckwheat flour which has been specially ground at Callington Mill by Head Miller Peter Schutz. Noodles were then cooked & served for guests to enjoy.



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, Bagdad, Broadmarsh, Elderslie, Dysart, Kempton, Melton Mowbray, Oatlands, Tunbridge, Tunnack, Parattah, Woodsdale, Levendale, Runnymede, Colebrook, Campania and Rekuna.

## Contact Us!

### Oatlands Office

*Corporate Services, Works and Technical Services, Natural Resource Management, Heritage Resources and Management, Information Technology*

71 High Street, Oatlands Tasmania 7120

*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](mailto:mail@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au)

### Kempton Office

*Development and Environmental Services, Community and Corporate Development*

85 Main Street, Kempton Tasmania 7030

*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](mailto:mail@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au)

### Heritage Highway Visitor Centre

The Callington Mill Complex

1 Mill Lane, Oatlands Tasmania 7120

Phone 03 6254 1212

Fax 03 6254 1467

[tourism@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au](mailto:tourism@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au)



### Chauncy Wildlife Sanctuary

345 Chauncy Vale Road Bagdad

Phone 6268 6365

## Current Councillors

Mayor and Councillor enquiries can be directed to:

Elisa Lang Executive Assistant - 6254 5004

[mail@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au](mailto:mail@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au)

<b>Mayor Tony Bisdee OAM</b>	<b>0418 355158</b>
Deputy Mayor Alex Green	0429 604153
Councillor Tony Bantick	0419 340157
Councillor Edwin Batt	0400 009471
Councillor Robert (Bob) Campbell	0404 260 026
Councillor Donald Fish	6255 5157
Councillor David Marshall	6260 4300

Or visit [www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au](http://www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au) for further contact details.

**For all Council after hours emergencies, please phone 0419 325 405**

For all after hours Water & Sewerage emergencies, please phone 13 6992

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 should be directed to State Growth on 1800 030 688

## COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

For Information in relation to placing items on the Community Notice Board, please contact Councils IT Officer Nick Wilson at the Oatlands Office or Email

[webmaster@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au](mailto:webmaster@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au)

## Waste Transfer Station Hours

OATLANDS WASTE TRANSFER STATION  
Inglewood Road, Andover, Tasmania  
(Via Tunnack Main Road Oatlands to Parattah)

- Tuesday 1.00 pm - 5.00 pm
- Friday 11.00 am - 3.00 pm
- Saturday 8.00 am - 12.00 pm
- Sunday 1.00 pm - 5.00 pm

CAMPANIA WASTE TRANSFER STATION  
Brown Mountain Road, Campania, Tasmania

- Tuesday 1.00pm - 5.00pm
- Thursday 1.00pm - 5.00pm
- Saturday 8.00am - 12.00pm
- Sunday 1.00pm - 5.00pm

DYSART WASTE TRANSFER STATION  
Huntingdon Tier Road, Dysart, Tasmania

- Tuesday 1.00pm - 5.00pm
- Saturday 12.00pm - 5.00pm
- Sunday 10.00am - 5.00pm