



Newsletter

Issue 3 | November 2017



Mayors Report

Callington Mill Precinct

Recently ratepayers would have received correspondence from Council advising that the Visitor Centre and café along with the tours at the Callington Mill precinct would close on Friday, 20th October 2017.

It was never the intention for Council to operate these services but we were left with no choice at the time of the redevelopment in 2010. Time has come to review this in light of the ongoing annual deficit of between \$250,000-\$280,000 per annum, which is not sustainable nor in line with what ratepayers expect.

We have been fortunate however in having a private developer purchase the property at 99 High Street, Oatlands (adjacent to the Visitor Centre) and expressing a genuine interest in sub-leasing and operating the Visitor Centre as part of his grand plan to build a major whisky distillery on his new property overlooking Lake Dulverton. Council saw this as a welcome opportunity to transfer the operation of the Visitor Centre from Council to a private enterprise developer and whisky entrepreneur.

The operation of the mill and flour milling will continue as normal until a commercial undertaking is made with the proposed developer. Grain will continue to be purchased from our local grain suppliers along with wheat and spelt flour produced then delivered to our customers.

I wish to emphasise that the Callington Mill precinct will be fully open to the public, apart from the Visitor Information Centre building as per the present situation.

We believe that there are a number of exciting developments "on the drawing board" for Oatlands that will, if they are successfully developed provide major economic development for the Southern Midlands region as a whole. We will keep you informed of progress.

I would like to recognise and thank all staff for their contributions and commitment to the centres operation and the development of tourism in the Southern Midlands.

New upgrade works – Midland Highway

I have been advised by the Department of State Growth that two sections of the Midland Highway are to be upgraded early in 2018. The St Peters Pass section of the highway from St Peters Pass to the recently completed works at Tunbridge will be one of the upgrades.

The second upgrade will be the Mangalore to Bagdad section of the highway. This upgrade will not have a wire rope barrier, but it will have a reduced speed limit of 80 km/h (presently 100 km/h).

These road works will impact upon the travelling public and impose some restrictions on traffic flow during the works. However, the end result will provide a much safer highway with fewer, catastrophic accidents and fatalities.

Fire Season

Here we are again coming out of a very dry winter in the Southern Midlands region and into a very dry spring season. The fire risk is very high at the moment and will be higher still if no beneficial rain is received.

I would like to remind property owners of the need to assess your property's fire risk and remove or reduce any potential risks such as excessive vegetation or material that may increase any potential fire event to both your property and your neighbour's property. Our local Tasmanian Fire Service officers & Brigades do an amazing job and it is incumbent on all of us to work with them in ensuring that the forthcoming Summer is safe for all of our Community.

Christmas Greetings

As I reflect on the many great projects that Council has delivered for our Community during this year the reality is that 2017 is coming to an end, alas all too fast.

Finally in closing I wish to extend to everyone on behalf of myself, my wife Sue, fellow Councillors & Council staff, a safe and enjoyable Christmas festive season, knowing that the farming Community amongst us will be looking forward to some beneficial rain.

Anthony E. Bisdee

Clr Tony Bisdee O.A.M
MAYOR

Q & A – Callington Mill precinct update

Council wrote to all residents of the municipality recently to inform you of changes to the Callington Mill precinct, including the closure of the Visitor Centre, café and tours as a council-operated service. We would like to clarify a few things based on your feedback to date:

- The Callington Mill will continue to operate & produce flour for sale;
- Oatlands IGA has agreed to stock an expanded range of Callington Mill Flour Product;
- There is also opportunity for other retail premises to buy stock at a wholesale price and offer it for sale;
- Many towns in Tasmania do not have a Visitor Centre – for example, Richmond does not have a Visitor Centre;
- The number of enquiries to Visitor Centres are declining with many now using their own devices and online booking systems;
- Employees affected by the closure of the visitor centre, café and tours were informed, as was their Union, prior to Council making its final decision; (*cont. over*)

Q & A—Callington Mill precinct update cont./

- Stakeholders were also consulted, and feedback over the past few years from ratepayers was also taken into consideration;
- Public toilets within the Mill precinct will remain open and be serviced by Council.

Callington Mill precinct remains accessible by the public, especially the Community Garden and the Blacksmith, and everyone is welcome.

The proposed new whisky distillery, if it gains necessary approvals, will further boost opportunities to attract increased visitation to the township, to benefit all.



2017/18 Bushfire Season Outlook

The Tasmania Fire Service is urging Tasmanians to prepare for an early start to the bushfire season following release of the Southern Australian Seasonal Bushfire Outlook today.

The Outlook, released by the Bushfire and Natural Hazards Cooperative Research Centre (BNHCRC) says Tasmania will experience 'above normal fire potential'

on the East Coast, the Derwent Valley and the South East corner, and 'normal fire potential' for the remainder of the state due to a lack of rainfall, soil dryness and high fuel loads.

The BNHCRC Outlook for Tasmania states:

'Despite significant floods during the winter of 2016 in many catchments, long term underlying dryness continues in some parts of Tasmania. Most of the state has received below average rainfall during 2017, with recent months very dry, especially in the south and east. Soil moisture levels are still well below normal in some places and significant rain would be required to recharge these soils. Tasmania is expecting above normal fire potential in the South, in the Derwent Valley and in the East, along the coastal strip. The fire season will commence early in these areas, and subject to spring conditions may produce significant fires. The remainder of Tasmania is classified as normal fire potential.'

Tasmania Fire Service Acting Deputy Chief Jeff Harper said the seasonal outlook highlights the need for Tasmanians to be prepared.

"Communities on the East Coast, Derwent Valley and South East corner of Tasmania are expected to experience significant, wind-driven bushfires as early as October. The remaining areas of the state have a normal potential for bushfires. Normal for Tasmania means we will have bushfires that will threaten communities. We expect to have several Total Fire Ban days this spring and summer.

"Tasmania is a bushfire prone area, and it is normal for us to experience significant fires. What's important is that we use the information released today to plan and prepare.

"The Tasmania Fire Service and other fire agencies are gearing up for bushfire season now. It is important that we start early this season rather than risk leaving preparations to the last minute when it's too late.

"The TFS has so far developed 100 Bushfire Protection Plans for individual communities. We encourage Tasmanians to visit the website and check if there is a Community Protection Plan for your area, and use the resources available to develop your own Bushfire Survival Plan. The important thing is to know the local bushfire risk and the options available and plan what you will do if there is a bushfire," Mr Harper said.

A number of factors are taken into account when modeling bushfire risk; including soil dryness, fuel types and fuel loads. The Tasmania Fire Service and partner agencies will continue to monitor conditions and review the outlook towards the end of spring.

For information about preparing your property visit www.fire.tas.gov.au.

For information about the Southern Australia Seasonal Bushfire Outlook visit www.bnhcrc.com.au.

BETTY
THE ADRI HOUSE IS VISITING

OATLANDS
HIGH STREET

DATE: 20/11/2017 TIME: 1:30pm-3:30pm
SPONSORED BY SOUTHERN MIDLANDS COUNCIL

Come and meet Betty The ADRI House, the world's first asbestos education house to learn about the dangers of asbestos and where it can be found in and around your home and how to manage it safely.

FIND US ON FACEBOOK [f BettyTheADRIHouse](https://www.facebook.com/BettyTheADRIHouse)

Logos for Betty the ADRI House, WorkSafe, asbestos education committee, ADRI, and asbestos awareness 2017.

Pool Safety
Its YOUR
Responsibility

Permits must be obtained from the Southern Midlands Council for the installation and set-up of pools and spas (as defined below). Before building a swimming pool or spa, inflating a blow-up pool or spa and/or erecting related safety fencing, you need to check with the Council to find out if or what building and approval is required. The Building Code of Australia (BCA) defines a swimming pool as an excavation or structure that:

- is capable of being filled with water to a depth of 300 millimetres or more the maximum possible water surface is greater than 9 square metres
- is capable of being used for swimming, bathing, wading, paddling or other human aquatic activities
- is used, designed, manufactured or adapted for the purpose
- mentioned above, despite its current use includes spas and inflatable swimming pools

It does not include a:

- fish pond
- ornamental pond, manufactured to be used for ornamental purposes
- dam used for aquaculture, marine research or storage of water
- watercourse
- spa bath situated in a bathroom which is not continually filled with water
- birthing pool used solely for water births
- portable wading pool
- A portable wading pool is defined as: capable of being filled with water to a depth of less than 300 millimetres; and has a volume of no more than 2,000 litres; and has no filtration or pumping System

Pool Fencing Above-ground swimming pools and spas are required to have permanent safety barriers in the same manner as in-ground pools and spas, however, the walls of an above-ground swimming pool or spa may provide a barrier if they are at least 1.2m in height and so not have a surface which enables a child to gain a foothold and climb into the swimming pool or spa. Any objects that could be climbable by a young child, such as a pool ladder, pool filter, pump equipment or plumbing connection into the side of the pool, should be properly fenced or otherwise isolated.

What's happening in your area?

OATLANDS

Oatlands Pool

The Pool will be open for the 2017/18 season on **Friday, 17th November 2017** at 3pm

Note: opening hours / fees & charges are listed on the back page.

Lake Dulverton Toilet Upgrade

Works on upgrading the Lake Dulverton foreshore toilet block have commenced. The toilet block is due to be re-opened by early November 2017.

Asbestos Information

'Betty' the ADRI Asbestos Awareness House is visiting Oatlands on the 20th November 2017 between 1.30pm to 3.30pm in High Street. Learn about asbestos and where it can be found in and around your home and how to safely manage it.

COLEBROOK

Upgrades at Colebrook Memorial Hall

Council has completed upgrade works at the Colebrook Memorial Hall. This included relocation of the main entrance door to remove the stepped entry; upgrade of the existing toilets plus the construction of a separate unisex accessible toilet; construction of a ramp to the stage area; improved internal access to the existing kitchen; and upgrade of external drainage systems.

Council have committed funding in the budget for the next 5 years to ensure that various Council owned facilities, wherever possible, comply with the Disability Discrimination Act requirements.

Review of Bus Transport Service

The Department of State Growth are currently undertaking a review of general bus transport services across Tasmania.

In relation to Colebrook, the Department is proposing to discontinue the current service of one day per month. This is due to low patronage. As part of this proposed change, the Department has agreed to consult with the community and it is intended to convene a community meeting within the next 2 to 3 weeks. This meeting will be held at the Colebrook Memorial Hall and the community will be notified of the date and time very shortly.

TasWater Update

Development Applications for TasWater Small Towns Water Supply Program have been approved for Colebrook Water Supply Works. The TasWater Small Towns Water Supply Program aims to provide fully treated water to 12 Tasmanian townships that currently experience boiled water and public health alerts associated with the existing water supplies. It is expected that works will commence before the end of 2017.

KEMPTON

Kempton Streetscape Project

The Kempton Streetscape Project is progressing. Fencing and gates at the Recreation Ground and some minor landscaping at the rear of the current grandstand will be the priority for works in the first instance.

Proposed Community Health Centre

Council continues to negotiate with the Education Department, and a potential service provider, to establish a small scale community health centre at Kempton. The proposal involves refurbishment of the former Kempton Primary School Principal's residence. The intention is to secure a service provider that will deliver GP Services, plus a range of other allied health packages.

DYSART

Council's Heritage Officers recently provided in-depth research for the Hunting Ground Chapel for ABC series 'Restoration Australia' and spent a day at Clifton Vale filming for this.

PARATTAH

Replacements for the faded township and speed limit signs have been arranged with the Department of State Growth for Parattah. The new signs are expected to be installed in the near future.

TUNBRIDGE

The Tunbridge Streetscape Project has commenced with street tree plantings.

What's happening in your area?

WOODSDALE

Woodsdale Road Capital Works Program - Tenders will be called shortly for the reconstruction and reseal of approximately 5 sections of Woodsdale Road. An allocation of \$135,00 has been budgeted for these works.

BAGDAD

New Bridge & Track at Chauncy Vale

The walk to Browns Caves at Chauncy Vale has been upgraded and features a new stone arch bridge built by local craftsmen John Hughes and Richard Chin. The new bridge is a visual improvement on the old treated pine one it has replaced and blends in well against the rocky escarpment country of the Sanctuary.

The new section of track leading to the bridge has made the walk to the caves easier by bypassing a former steep section. The Caves circuit, including a return trip via the shady valley of Browns Caves Creek, is a very popular walk at Chauncy Vale, and generally requires about an hour to complete.

The new bridge and walking track were funded in part by the State Government's Community Infrastructure Fund Program. New walking track signage is also being installed at Chauncy Vale to help clarify the different walking track options in the reserve.

Due to infrastructure upgrades at Chauncy Vale, the main gate is currently closed on some days. Pedestrian access is still available – it is about a 5 min walk to the picnic area and a 10 min walk to the start of the main walking tracks. Council apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

For information and updates go to: <https://www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au/chauncy-vale/>



Heather Chauncy at the new bridge

Preliminary call for expressions of interest - Heritage Skills Centre - 79 High Street, Oatlands



Council is currently undertaking an extensive restoration of the Oatlands Commissariat building and 79 High Street, Oatlands.

Further to the Heritage Education and Skills Centre (HESC) business plan, the site will be the home of HESC and will include spaces for training, offices, retail and meeting rooms which will also be made available for use of community groups and not-for-profit organisations for activities relevant to heritage, culture, the arts etc.

The shopfront at 79 High Street will be made available as a 'heritage retail co-op', where such groups may be able to undertake commercial activities (e.g. exhibitions, sale of goods etc.) to support their ongoing activities. Whilst user guidelines will be developed and formal expressions of interest will be

called for in early 2018, Council currently seeks to engage with such groups during the works program to ensure that the property will be fit for purpose and needs/desires of users are met as best as possible.

If you are involved in a group who may be interested in utilising these premises, please contact Brad Williams, Manager Heritage Projects, Southern Midlands Council

bwilliams@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au or 0418 303 184

This project is supported by the Australian Government through the National Stronger Regions Fund.

Landcare Office - Weed update

Council has increased its effort in weed management and has recently appointed a Weeds Officer, Sandy Leighton, who is based at our Oatlands Office. Sandy is working Monday, Tuesday and every second Wednesday. She has extensive experience in weed management, including at the local, municipal, regional, state and national levels and is here to support and assist landholders to better manage priority weeds of the Southern Midlands - Paterson's curse, Spanish heath, nodding/ cotton/ saffron thistles, African lovegrass, boneseed, ragwort, serrated tussock and Chilean needle grass.

Council Officers have recently held discussions with our weed contractor to schedule weed control activities for the 2017/ 18 season. Paterson's curse control will commence shortly whilst most plants are at the rosette or seedling stage and regular follow up control will continue into autumn in an effort to prevent these plants from seeding this season. Other targeted weeds for control along roadsides and council land include gorse, broom, blackberry and Spanish heath.

A reminder to landholders in the –

Levendale area: Spanish Heath has flowered and plants will contain thousands to millions of very fine seeds. Prevent stock from grazing infested areas.

Now is the ideal time to have a look around your property and remove any seedlings before they flower. If you want to control plants that have already flowered, do not remove them to another area as this will spread seed and make your job harder.

Broadmarsh, Bagdad, Mangalore and Dysart areas: Paterson's curse is at the rosette or seedling stage with a few plants starting to flower. Now is the time to check for plants and control them before they start to flower and seed. Remember to keep a look out from now until mid-autumn and prevent all plants from seeding.

Woodbury, Lower Marshes Rd and Oatlands areas: Cotton, saffron and nodding thistle have a limited distribution in the municipality. Thistles will be germinating and seedlings starting to progress towards flowering. Now is the time to control them before they start to seed.

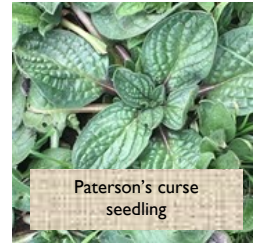
Melton Mowbray and areas adjoining the Northern Midlands: Ragwort is on the move! Become familiar with this weed and regularly check your property for plants. Rosettes are present now and flowering will start in late spring. It is essential that we keep this weed from establishing. Prevent all plants from flowering and report plants to Council.

Dysart: Boneseed is flowering now. Residents are asked to keep a look out for bright yellow flowers and report plants to Council. Unlike broom, boneseed has thick waxy leaves. The Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE) have comprehensive weed information and control guides on their website (dpiipwe.tas.gov.au/weeds). Alternatively, the Landcare Office has a range of weed brochures available.

For more information contact Sandy Leighton at the Landcare office on 6254 5048. Sandy will help you confirm identification and assist with control measure advice for priority weeds.



Spanish heath



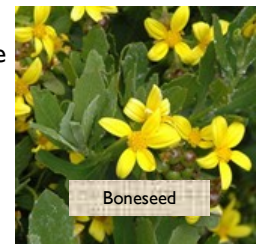
Paterson's curse seedling



Ragwort seedling



Ragwort flowering



Boneseed

New Solar Panels for the Kempton Offices

Council has invested in a 9kW solar photovoltaic system for its offices at Kempton. The system is expected to generate 10.8 megawatt hours of electricity per year. Over 80% of the generated electricity will be consumed on site, the remainder being exported to the grid.

The installation will result in a 40% reduction in energy consumption from the grid at the Kempton offices and equate to an initial annual saving off electricity invoices of \$2340.

Over the life of the system, the cumulative savings amounting from the system are expected to be in the order of \$100,900 (based upon a 5.0% annual increase in electricity price scenario). This installation is a continuation of council's long term commitment to energy efficiency across all its facilities.

The next energy efficiency project planned is an upgrade of office lighting to LEDs. This move will see investment outlay recouped in energy bill savings in as little as one year.



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 & Technical Services, Natural Resource Management, Heritage Resources & 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

Kempton Office *Development & Environmental Services, Community & 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

Oatlands Swimming Pool 2017/18

OPENING 17 NOVEMBER 2017 at 3 pm

Opening Hours:

School Terms (Mon-Fri) 3.00 p.m. – 6.00 p.m.

School Holidays 11.00 a.m. – 6.00 p.m.

Weekends 11.00 a.m. – 6.00 p.m.

Public Holidays 11.00 a.m. – 6.00 p.m.

Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary

345 Chauncy Vale Road Bagdad

Phone 03 6259 3011

mail@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au

2017/18 FEES & CHARGES	
Season Ticket:	
Family	\$110.00
Adult	\$55.00
Child/Student	\$42.00
Daily Tickets:	
Family	\$12.00
Adult	\$5.00
Child/Student	\$4.00
Complex Hire Fee:	
\$45.00 per hour All supervised (out of hours)	

Councillors

Mayor and Councillor enquiries can be directed to:

Elisa Lang - Executive Assistant - Ph: 6254 5004

mail@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au

Mayor Tony Bisdee OAM **0418 355 158**

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 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 **1300 139 933**

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

Waste Transfer Station Hours

OATLANDS WASTE TRANSFER STATION

Inglewood Road, Andover

(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

- 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

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