



Mayors Report

***REVIEW INTO THE
NUMBER OF ELECTED
MEMBERS - SOUTHERN
MIDLANDS COUNCIL***

Council recently made an important decision to request the Minister for Local Government (Hon. Brian Green MP) to conduct a review into the number of elected councillors on the Southern Midlands Council.

This follows recent reviews conducted by the Minister for the Break O'Day, Central Coast, Devonport, Glamorgan Spring Bay, Glenorchy, Kingborough and Tasman Councils at their request. Through the process of these reviews, the Local Government Board, who undertakes the review on behalf of the Minister, developed a framework which can be subsequently applied to any future assessment of Councillor numbers. The outcome of the above reviews resulted in a recommendation whereby the number of elected members should be reduced, with the exception of the Break O'Day Council. Based upon the developed framework, Council identified that a reduction of two elected members would be the preferred outcome.

The Local Government Board is to consult with the community prior to submitting a recommendation to the Minister, and any member of the community or broader public may make a submission. This will be advertised accordingly.

The overall intent of Council's decision is to reduce administrative costs to the ratepayer. Your Council is well aware of the current cost of living expenses that are very apparent in our communities, and the Southern Midlands Council sees this as a positive initiative.

AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT

In recent media relating to the Auditor General's 2011-12 Annual Report to Parliament, it was reported that the Southern Midlands Council was one of several Councils that reported a financial deficit in the 2011-12 financial year (Southern Midlands was \$1.35 million).

It is important to clarify that this does not represent a 'cash loss', but is essentially an amount of unfunded depreciation of assets. For information, all Councils are required to recognise, value and depreciate its non-current assets over the term of their useful lives. Total annual depreciation is approximately \$3.1 million, and whilst the \$1.35 million includes some 'one-off' extraordinary expenses, the shortfall is approx. 35% of depreciation.

This is to be addressed through the preparation of long-term asset management plans (and an associated financial management strategy), with the obvious aim of being able to replace its assets as and when they fall due.

It is interesting to note that neither the State or Federal Governments recognise (or fund) depreciation, with Local Government being the only level of government required to do so.

Myself, fellow councillors and staff wish everyone a safe, happy and prosperous New Year.

Mayor Tony Bisdee O.A.M.

*We would value your
input Join one of the
workshop sessions &
share your views*



Access to services and facilities impacts directly on the quality of everyday life of many people with disabilities, their families and carers as well as older and indeed some younger members of our Community.

While many of us take for granted the ability to go about our daily lives without experiencing barriers in our normal environment, the same is not the case for people with disabilities, some seniors and some children.

The Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) is the key legislative requirement for ensuring that primarily, access to buildings and services is available in the Community. The Southern Midlands Council is committed to "Universal Access and Inclusion" rather than "access for people with disabilities", with the emphasis on mainstream facilities and services being accessible for all including children, seniors and people with disabilities. The Council recognises that people with disabilities are valued members of the Community who make a variety of contributions to social, economic and cultural life within

KEMPTON FESTIVAL IS ON AGAIN IN 2013



The Festival offers the chance for us to promote Kempton and our region and provides opportunities for local individuals and groups to "sell" themselves.

New

Sheep racing, photo competition, mini dog games, Fabric art demo's and other competitions.

Come and help it happen!

We really do need your help, BEFORE OR ON THE DAY!

Some of the money generated by making the Festival happen will find its way back to those individuals and groups who have helped. So far, the Central Hawks Football Club, Kempton Primary School Parents & Friends, Greater Green Ponds Arts Group, Bothwell Lions Club Melton Mowbray Rodeo.

Your involvement would be greatly appreciated.

The more the merrier and the easier it is for all to have fun!

Contact: Gabrielle for stall bookings or enquires by phone 0419 385010 or email Gabrielle.watkins@bigpond.com

Swimming Pool Fencing

Pool fencing is designed to save children's lives by preventing their access to pools. However, it is alarming to see that the majority of children under five years of age who drown in swimming pools, do so as a result of fencing that is not compliant with the legislation. In other words, pool fencing that is not working or not being used as designed is contributing to the number of children drowning. A four sided fence, that does not include any part of the home, has proven to be the safest.

You must, by law, have a four sided fence around ANY pool that can be filled with more than 300mm of water. This includes inflatable and portable swimming pools.

The maintenance of pool fencing is extremely important, even if you do not have young children living at your home. Children are most at risk of drowning within 6 months of moving into a new property with a swimming pool, or when visiting the home of a friend, family or neighbour with a pool.

Pool fencing is a legal requirement and pool owners should regularly check their swimming pool throughout the year, especially in the months leading up to summer.

The Royal Life Saving Society has launched a new Home Pool Safety campaign targeting anyone who has a backyard pool. It provides sound advice in the form of a checklist that alerts pool owners to potential dangers that they may not be aware of. If you would like more information, visit the website

www.homepoolsafety.com.au and download your copy of the Home Pool Safety Checklist – it could save a life!



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the Southern Midlands area. The Council also believes that a Community that recognises its diversity and supports the participation of all its members makes for a richer Community life. As such, Council has recently adopted a Disability Access & Inclusion Policy.

Councils are required, under the DDA, to work towards providing equity of access to services and facilities to all sectors of the Community, including people with disabilities. The Southern Midlands Council has made steady progress in improving access since the Access Survey and Assessment undertaken by Council in 1997. As well as the 2009 review.

The Council also recognises that full compliance with the intent of the DDA comes at a financial cost that cannot be easily achieved in the short term. However Council is committed to implementing the spirit and intent of the legislation.

Council's Manager Community & Corporate Development, Andrew Benson will be running a series of workshop sessions for Community members during February 2013 to gather input into Council's proposed Disability Access & Inclusion Plan. This Plan will form the basis of improvements over the next five years to public places and spaces; the workshop sessions will be from 2.00pm to 4.00pm, at



- Oatlands Council Chambers on Tuesday 5th February 2013
- Bagdad Community Club on Thursday 7th February 2013
- Campania Community Hall on Wednesday 13th February 2013

Andrew will also be contacting Management Committees, of Council owned Community Halls as well as Community owned Halls, to work through the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act and to seek input to the proposed Disability Access & Inclusion Plan.

Further information and a copy of Council's current draft Disability Access & Inclusion Plan is available at Council's website www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au Interested contributors should forward comments to smc@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au or PO Box 21 Oatlands Tasmania 7120 on or before Monday 4th February 2013. For additional information in relation to this consultation process, please contact Council's Manager Community & Corporate Development, Andrew Benson at smc@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au or telephone 62 593 011. It would be appreciated if you could advise Andrew Benson of your attendance at the session of your choice.

Council looks forward to your input.

A new project to promote energy efficiency in Tasmania's heritage buildings



Council has commenced a Project which aims to improve energy efficiency at the heritage listed Town Hall in Oatlands and promote energy efficiency in heritage buildings more broadly through the development of a new training course.

Council received funding from the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency as part of the Community Energy Efficiency Program. The Grant is for an amount of \$26,000 over two years, with \$15,000 being committed to the Project by Council.

The Town Hall at Oatlands was constructed at a time (1880) when there was little awareness or need for energy efficiency. Heritage buildings often leak significant amounts of heat due to lack of insulation, chimney drafts, poorly sealed windows, numerous vents and high ceilings. The Project will tackle all of these issues and also improve the efficiency of heating and lighting in the building.

This Project will provide an example of how energy efficiency in a heritage building can be implemented without compromising the heritage features of a building. The Project will also demonstrate that some solutions can be cost effective, and that money outlaid can be recouped in a relatively short period of time with the energy savings made. For example, unobtrusive Perspex inlays will be installed on the interior of all sash windows, an action that is anticipated to save 4,500 kilowatt hours of electricity annually (equivalent to \$1260 at current costs).

Overall, it is estimated that the Town Hall retrofit will save around 20,000 kilowatt hours of electricity annually and also save the emission of approximately 20 tonnes of greenhouse gases.

The Centre for Heritage at Oatlands - Heritage Education and Skills Centre will use the retrofitted Town Hall as a case study in a new course entitled *Energy Efficiency and Comfort in Heritage Buildings*.

The courses will increase awareness of techniques and opportunities in the field of energy efficiency in older buildings and potentially stimulate employment opportunities. The potential for transference and adoption of the techniques used in the Project is significant due to the large local, regional and state-wide representation of colonial sandstone buildings.

For more information about this Project, contact Graham Green at Council on: 62545048 (Mon-Tue) or ggreen@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au



“Council wins prestigious award”

Southern Midlands Council was very pleased to receive an “Innovation Award” at the Medibank Active Tasmania 2012 Awards ceremony recently held in Launceston. Conducted by the Premier’s Physical Activity Council, the award was won for Council’s purchase and use of its Mobile Skate Park which circulates between six of its larger townships on a rostered basis, providing a regular and healthy outdoor recreational and social activity for young people in these somewhat isolated areas.



www.chauncyvale.com.au

Friends of Chauncy Vale invite you to join them on the Australia Day long weekend for an

**Australian Bush Picnic
Sunday 27 January 2013
AT CHAUNCY VALE, BAGDAD**

FREE ENTRY

From Noon

**Sausage sizzle 12-1.30pm or
BYO picnic**

Entertainment

Children’s activities including discovery trail with prizes
Guided Walks
Chauncy house tours
Art displays
Exhibitions
Stalls

Tea, Coffee and Cordial available

Please note: In the event of a total fire ban this event will be cancelled as Chauncy Vale will be closed.



Central Hawks Football Club

The Central Hawks commence Pre-Season training on Tuesday January 15th, starting at 6pm at the Kempton Football Ground. After a year of transition in 2012, the Hawks are looking to build on an outstanding group of younger players coming through. Todd Lewis is back for his second year as Senior Coach and will again be supported by his playing Assistant Clinton Brown. Greg Dare has returned for a second stint as Reserves Coach. All past, present and intending players are strongly encouraged to attend the training run, with Colts players especially encouraged. After failing to field an Under 18’s side in 2012, the club is committed to again providing an opportunity for younger players to take the field.

Weed Alert!

Patches of Cumbungi (*Typha latifolia*) have been noticed around Southern Midlands, more than in previous years. Cumbungi poses a serious threat because it is a large and vigorous plant that has the potential to spread rapidly and completely cover waterways and dams. The photo below demonstrates what can occur in a farm dam situation if left uncontrolled. The dam photographed here has become useless for stock water access.



The key distinguishing features of Cumbungi are the large dark brown seed heads and lighter coloured leaves.

Small outbreaks of the plant can be controlled by cutting the plant stems at least 10 centimetres below the water surface level. January is the optimum time, with follow up at intervals of 4 to 6 weeks. Larger outbreaks can be

controlled by spraying with Roundup Biactive (not normal Roundup) at 13ml/litre. Complete coverage of the foliage is required. For more information about controlling Cumbungi you should visit www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au and type 'cumbungi' in the search box in the top right hand corner.



If you find it seeding it is best to carefully cut off each seed head and place it in a strong plastic garbage bag. Try not to disturb the seeds. Seal and store the bag ready for safe disposal or burning later (winter time). With any outbreak, it is unlikely that it will be controlled completely in one season, so a commitment to follow up is essential.

Weed brochures

The Southern Midlands Council has an extensive range of easy to read weed brochures available. There are brochures on 10 different types of weeds commonly found in Southern Midlands. You can call into the Oatlands or Kempton Council office to collect them.



Change in Grants Process

From time to time the Tasmanian Community Fund reviews its processes and operations to ensure they are meeting the needs of the Fund, the applicants and the community. As a result of the most recent review the Tasmanian Community Fund will be moving to an electronic grant management system in 2013.

From Grant Round 26 (February 2013) the Tasmanian Community Fund will only accept large and medium applications lodged electronically through the system. Small applicants (up to \$10 000) will have the option of lodging their application electronically or in hard copy until 2014. The Tasmanian Community Fund believes that the new system will create a more streamlined process for applicants, proponents and the Fund.

Information Session:

The Tasmanian Community Fund Board recognises that this is a significant change and wants to make sure that the community is as well informed about the changes as possible. Tasmanian Community Fund staff will be conducting information sessions at the **Southern Midlands Council Chambers, 71 High Street, Oatlands at 2pm on Tuesday, 29 January 2013.**

Whilst the purpose of this session is to provide information to the community on the new application Process, staff may have some time to discuss potential project applications with attendees.

For more information or to RSVP please email admin@tascomfund.org or phone 6233 2920.

Tuesday 8th January

Richmond Maze , Cost is \$10.00 per child

Wednesday 16th January

A coach trip to Launceston Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery's most popular activities and the Launceston Aquatic Centre for some awesome waterslide rides,



water bucket dunks and inflatable slides. Cost is \$10.00 per child

Wednesday 23rd January

Tasmanian Royal Botanical Gardens and catch a live and local performance of "Treasure Island" . Cost is \$10.00 per child



We build strong **PEOPLE**
STRONG families strong
COMMUNITIES



Oatlands Swimming Pool Opening Hours

Mon – Friday (during school term) 2.00 pm – 6.00 pm
School Holiday, Weekends & Public Holidays 12.00 am – 6.00 pm

Admission charges and hire fees for the 2012/2013 season are as follows:

Daily Tickets:	Season Ticket	Complex Hire Fee
Adult \$ 5.00	Family \$ 85.00	All supervised
Children \$ 4.00	Adult \$ 50.00	\$45.00 per hour (out of Hours)
Family \$11.50	Child \$ 40.00	

Students require a current student identification card.

Note: Out of hours bookings must be supervised by the YMCA supervisor at all times. Application is to be made seven days in advance to Council

The pool is run by the YMCA Clarence Aquatic Centre.

YOUTH SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM JANUARY 2013

Bookings are essential

Get in early as spots fill quickly. Bookings can be made through Council's Kempton office on 6259 3011 during office hours

Tasmania Fire Service

In case of emergency, call 000
For further information visit
www.firetas.gov.au



Most bushfires in Tasmania occur during relatively mild summer weather and are easily controlled by fire fighters. However, bushfires that break out on very hot, dry and windy days can spread rapidly and may be difficult or impossible for fire fighters to control.

These fires can burn large areas of forest and farmland, destroy homes and livestock, and sometimes kill and injure people.

A properly prepared home is more likely to survive a bushfire than one that hasn't been prepared, and the chances increase significantly if able-bodied people are there to protect your home.

Properly prepared and defended homes can provide a safe haven during almost all bushfires. However, Tasmania Fire Service recommends that you should not plan to defend your home when:

Fire Danger Rating exceeds 50 (severe) in your area, unless you have created a defensible space and emberproofed your home.

Fire Danger Rating exceeds 75 (extreme) in your area, unless your home has a defensible space and has been designed and built specifically to withstand a bushfire*.

Fire Danger Rating exceeds 100 (catastrophic) in your area, regardless of any preparations you have made, unless firefighters have assessed your home as defensible in the prevailing conditions.




Leaving early is always the safest option **Bushfire Warning Alert Levels**

When bushfires are burning in Tasmania, Tasmania Fire Service will provide as much information about them as possible in the circumstances, principally through its website www.fire.tas.gov.au and the media. It will use three

levels of messaging to help people make the right safety choices. However, remember that fires can threaten suddenly and without warning, so you should always be ready to act even if you don't receive an official emergency warning.

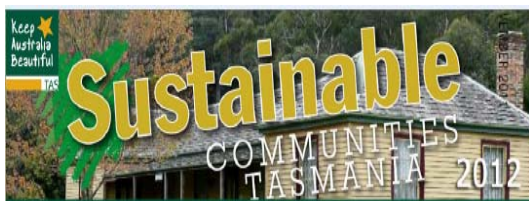
Tasmania Fire Service messages take into account the risk posed by burning fires, which will depend to some extent on the daily [fire danger rating](#) and how quickly any bushfires are spreading.

Three types of alert messages have been developed:

	Advice – ‘ <i>Bushfire Advice</i> ’ message – This will advise you that a fire has started but there is no immediate danger, and includes general information to keep you up to date with developments.
	Watch and Act – ‘ <i>Bushfire Watch and Act</i> ’ message – This represents a heightened level of threat. Conditions are changing and you need to start taking action now to protect you and your family.
	Emergency Warnings – ‘ <i>Bushfire Emergency Warning</i> ’ – This will indicate that people in specific locations are in danger and need to take action immediately as they will be impacted by fire. This message may be preceded by an emergency warning signal (a siren sound).

The three levels of messages have taken into account concerns about over-warning people. These concerns, coupled with a tendency for people to act at the last minute, have determined the choice of message levels. While the intent is to inform people before fires directly threaten them, fires can break out suddenly and without warning, making it impossible to get messages out in time on all occasions.

You should be aware of the forecast [fire danger rating](#) each day during summer, and remain alert to the potential for bushfires to break out suddenly and spread rapidly. You should not wait for an official emergency warning if you are threatened by a bushfire.



KEEP AUSTRALIA BEAUTIFUL TASMANIA announced its 2012-13 awards at the annual function hosted by last year's winner, Waratah Wynyard.

The judging period was extremely busy with more entrants this year in the Tidy Towns, Sustainable Cities and Clean Beaches programs and with the inclusion of the Sustainable Schools awards. Latrobe was announced the overall Tidy Towns winner for 2012-13 and will represent Tasmania in the Australian awards mid 2013.

Congratulations goes to the Callington Mill team for receiving 2 Awards:

- **Organic Farm / Business Innovation Awards, Organic Coalition of Tasmania - Finalist**
- **Keep Australia Beautiful 2012 Sustainable Communities Award, Awarded to Callington Mill Resource Recovery & Energy Innovation (recycling & energy Innovations)**



COAL RIVER NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH - HELPING TO MAKE THE COAL VALLEY SAFER

The next meeting will be held at the War Memorial Hall, Campania on Thursday February 21 at 7pm at Campania Memorial Hall.

The meeting is open to all residents with concerns about safety, vandalism or theft, and thoughts on how we can combat any of these problems.

Come along and have your say and discuss with other residents any concerns you may have within the local community. The Police and Southern Midlands representatives are often in attendance to provide immediate feedback as to ways they can help.

Chris Adams, Co-ordinator
Ph 0408 335585 for further information

Council Meetings 2013

Date	Venue
23/01/2013	Campania Hall, Reeve St Campania
26/02/2013	Broadmarsh Hall, Elderslie Road Broadmarsh

Ordinary meeting commencing at 10.00 a.m. with Public Consultation 12.30 p.m.



Heritage Highway Visitor Centre & Callington Mill

1 Mill Lane, Oatlands Tas 7120
 Phone: 03 6254 1212 Fax: 03 6254 1467
 Email: tourism@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au

Opened 9am to 5pm Daily
 (Closed Xmas Day & Good Friday)

Our team are on hand to assist you with local and state-wide travel information, maps, local accommodation bookings, tours through the fascinating Callington Mill, and the surrounding historic buildings plus general enquiries.

Located within the Visitor Centre is our gift shop and Mill keepers Café.

The gift shop offers a wide range of gifts, crafts and of course, our popular unique Callington Mill stoneground local and organic flours.

After a tour of the Mill, indulge yourself with delicious snacks made with the Callington Mill Flour accompanied by a hot or cold drink.

How to contact us!

Council Head Office Oatlands

71 High Street, Oatlands Tas 7120
 All mail should be addressed to
 The General Manager
 PO Box 21, Oatlands Tas 7120
www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au
 Facsimile 03 6254 5014
mail@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au
 Monday-Friday 9.00 am to 4.30 pm

03 6254 5000

Corporate Services 03 6254 5000
 ie rates, administration
 Landcare Unit 03 6254 5046
 Works Dept. 03 6254 5008

Development & Environmental
 Services Office 03 6259 3011
 85 Main Street, Kempton Tas 7030
 Facsimile 03 6259 1327
mail@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au
 Monday-Friday 9.00 am to 4.30 pm

Planning, Building, Health,
 Animal Control, Community & Corporate
 Development 03 6259 3011

Tourism & Recreation Facilities

Heritage Highway Visitor Centre
 Callington Mill,
 1 Mill Lane, Oatlands 03 6254 1212

Oatlands Swimming Pool,
 Campbell Street, Oatlands 03 6254 5024

Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary
 350 Chauncy Vale Road, Bagdad 03 6268 6365

After Hours Emergency Service
 0419 325 405

Elected Members:

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Ph: 6259 1128
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 Mobile: 0418 355158
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HOUSEHOLD WASTE TRANSFER STATIONS OPERATING HOURS Southern Midlands Council

OATLANDS Tunnack Main Road	DYSART Huntingdon Tier Road	CAMPANIA Brown Mountain Road
Tuesday 1.00 pm to 5.00 pm	Tuesday 1.00 pm to 5.00 pm	Tuesday 1.00 pm to 5.00 pm
Friday 11.00 am to 3.00 pm		Thursday 1.00pm to 5.00 pm
Saturday 8.00 am to 12 noon	Saturday 12 noon to 5.00 pm	Saturday 8.00 am to 12 noon
Sunday 1.00 pm to 5.00 pm	Sunday 10.00 am to 5.00 pm	Sunday 1.00 pm to 5.00 pm
Closed Mon, Wed & Thurs	Closed Mon, Wed, Thurs & Friday	Closed Mon, Wed & Friday