



Mayors Report

Since the last council newsletter we have had a Federal Government election and a new Liberal / Coalition government has been elected. While I would like to presume that the new Federal Government would come to office with a clear and specific strategy for Local Government, nationally there were very



limited references and support policies for Local Government in the election campaign.

This was somewhat disappointing as Local Government continues to provide not only the vast inventory of rural and regional roads but also the essential community services that our communities rely on for their sustainability, wellbeing and advancement.

While we are assured that current Federal / Local Government funding will be maintained at current quantum's, the possibility for more equity in Federal Local Government funding appears bleak.

We all understand the restricted financial capacity of the Federal Government at the present time due to major overruns in the Federal Budget such as border protection and the NBN rollout, coupled with massive write-downs in Federal taxation receipts. Unfortunately I believe that there will be an extended period of austerity while the Federal Government addresses the budget deficit problem and strives to fund initiatives such as the National Disability Insurance Scheme, and Education Reforms .

When all issues are taken into consideration it would appear that there will be little or no new financial commitments for infrastructure, which is so badly needed across all local councils.

Council will be meeting with the new Federal Member for Lyons, Eric Hutchinson MHR, and working closely with him to keep abreast of Council issues and seeking solutions and partnerships with the Federal Government to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow for the betterment of the communities of Southern Midlands.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the former member for Lyons, Dick Adams, for his contribution and support of the Southern Midlands Council. In particular Dick was instrumental in gaining \$1.2 million from the former

Federal Labor Government to provide matching funding from the State Government to reconstruct the Callington Flour Mill in Oatlands. Dick also supported the many heritage grants that we were successful in applying for, especially the Old Supreme Court House and the Gaolers Residence.

The major project underway in Southern Midlands at the present time is the Midlands Irrigation Scheme. It is indeed exciting that this major project is well advanced with the expected completion date about the end of March next year.

The availability of much needed irrigation water will provide the catalyst for greater expansion of farming enterprises in the midlands with the benefits of increased employment opportunities and the potential for service industries to establish and further add to economic development in the Southern Midlands region.

A significant associated benefit will be the availability of a supplementary water supply for Lake Dulverton. This will maintain the lake as important recreational area as well as its role as a wildlife sanctuary.

Another very important irrigation project recently announced was the South East Irrigation Scheme that will provide irrigation water through the areas of Tea Tree, Rekuna and Campania in the Southern Midlands Council area. These combined irrigation schemes provide a very exciting future for agriculture within the Southern Midlands region especially considering that the poppy industry continues to be a very important cash crop for the Southern Midlands and the industry appears positive into the foreseeable future.

While on matters of agriculture and farming, I wish to comment on recent media publicity regarding vicious dog attacks upon stock generally and sheep in particular. Recent media reports and letters to the editor have reported criticism of Council in circumstances where dog owners have not been prosecuted for these destructive dog attacks. While I can assure everyone that Council officers respond to every report made by farmers or members of the community, subsequent investigations do not always result in the dog's owner being brought to justice due to difficulties in positively identifying the attacking dog in many instances.

In the case of a dog attack, a successful prosecution requires witnesses to the attack who can positively identify the offending dog or dogs. The history of local Councils taking legal action over dog attacks has a low success rate as the onus of proof in a court of law requires “beyond doubt” evidence. Addressing this issue, therefore, needs a ‘whole of community’ approach, and this needs to start with responsible dog ownership practices by all dog owners.

Recently, in New South Wales, we have witnessed yet again massive property loss and decimation of local communities by fierce bushfires. These fires are a timely reminder to all property owners to reduce and remove excessive vegetation that may exist in or around your property. Not only will this action assist in protecting your property and your animals it will also reduce the fire risk to your neighbours.

We are privileged to have such dedicated and resourceful local volunteer fire fighters who put themselves in harm’s way to protect our homes and our animals – any assistance to make their life less dangerous would be most appreciated by our local volunteer fire fighters, including SES and police, who all combine in combatting dangerous fires in rural and regional areas.

Unfortunately I must conclude on a sad note. Former Councillor, DPI/PWE Agriculture Officer, Uniting Church parish council member and dedicated community group member Graeme Raphael sadly passed away recently.

Graeme was involved in so many community groups and activities and gave his unqualified support to all. His support and involvement with the local schools in Southern Midlands, especially in passing on his vast knowledge of his beloved beekeeping, was a great contribution to the community. The historic cottage at ‘Maher’s Point was also a particular labour of love for Graeme who volunteered many hours to its restoration. Graeme’s passing is a great loss to our community. We will always remember Graeme with great affection and admiration for his gentlemanly and caring nature; he left a great legacy of community, church and historical worth for our benefit.

On behalf of Sue and myself, my fellow Councillors and Staff of the Southern Midlands Council, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very happy and safe Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Clr Tony Bisdee O.A.M.
Mayor



Most bushfires in Tasmania occur during relatively mild summer weather and are easily controlled by firefighters.

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 the [fire danger rating](#) exceeds 50 (severe) in your area unless you have created a defensible space and ember-proofed your home. However, the safest option always is to leave before a fire threatens your home.

Tasmania Fire Service recommends that you should not plan to defend your home when the 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.

Tasmania Fire Service recommends that you should not plan to defend your home on days when the fire danger rating exceeds 100 (catastrophic) in your area, even if your home has a defensible space and has been designed and built specifically to withstand a bushfire. If you are not staying to defend your property, you should plan to leave early. Many people have died in bushfires because they have tried to relocate too late, and have been trapped and burnt in their [cars](#) or on [foot](#). Fewer lives will be lost if people who choose to leave do so well before a bushfire threatens their home.

*Australian Standard AS 3959 *Building in Bushfire Prone Areas* or equivalent measures

For further information visit www.firetas.gov.au



Southern Midlands Council Nominations are invited for the

- **AUSTRALIA DAY CITIZEN AWARD**
(To be eligible, the person must be 27 years of age or older on 26th January next)
- **AUSTRALIA DAY YOUNG CITIZEN AWARD**
(To be eligible, the person must be not more than 27 years of age on 26th January next)
- **AUSTRALIA DAY COMMUNITY EVENT OF THE YEAR AWARD**
(to be presented to the person or group who has staged the most outstanding community event during the year for the Southern Midlands)

Nomination forms are available from the Council Offices, or Council's website, www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au

Nomination will be received until 4.00 p.m. on Monday 18th November 2013 by mail addressed to the General Manager PO Box 21 Oatlands or email mail@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au



Wildflower Time

It's wildflower time in the Midlands and the native bushland in our municipality can become a dazzling display of unique wildflowers in a good season. In fact, the Midlands is recognised nationally for its diversity of native wildflowers.

Two sites that are worth visiting at this time of year are St James cemetery at Jericho, and the Tunbridge Nature Reserve, just east of the Tunbridge village.

St James Cemetery has one of the few remaining refuges of natural grassland and wildflowers in our landscape. This site contains at least four threatened plant species, notable of which is the lanky buttons (*Leptorhynchos elongatus*) which is listed as 'endangered' and found at just a handful of locations in Tasmania. A new interpretation panel at St James will help you to identify this unique wildflower. The natural values of the Jericho site are maintained by the Jericho Heritage Centre, Southern Midlands Council and local volunteers.



Southern Midlands Council supports the protection, enhancement and interpretation of our local natural values. For more information visit the Natural Resource Management page on Council's web site or contact Graham Green: 6254 5048

ggreen@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au

Have you seen these weeds?

Paterson's curse

Description:

Paterson's curse is an erect annual herb/plant growing between 600-900mm tall. Develops a rosette with stalked, slightly hairy leaves to 300mm long with strongly lateral veins. Sometimes single stemmed, but usually several much branched stems on which leaves are narrower and smaller. Stems are hairy and the flowers are trumpet shaped, 20-30 mm long usually blue/purple.



Paterson's curse is beginning to establish in the Southern Midlands, particularly in the Mangalore and Bagdad areas. There is still the chance to control it because there are only isolated infestations.

Spanish heath

Description:

Spanish heath is a woody shrub that can grow to 2 metres in height. It has bright green, feathery leaves, and produces masses of bell-shaped pinkish-white flowers over winter and spring. The flowers produce thousands of tiny seeds in spring and summer.



Spanish heath (*Erica lusitanica*) is a weed that continues to be an issue for landholders in the wider Levendale area.

Cumbungi

Patches of Cumbungi (*Typha latifolia*) have been noted in farm dams, waterways and lakes in the Southern Midlands. Cumbungi poses a serious threat because it has the potential to spread rapidly, cover entire water bodies and impede stock access to clean drinking water. There have been reports of stock becoming seriously bogged when trying to access water, where Cumbungi has changed the environment around a dam water edge. The key distinguishing features of Cumbungi are the large dark brown seed heads and lighter coloured leaves.



Further information

More information, photos and control methods are available on the DPIW web site – type in 'Paterson's curse', 'Spanish heath' or 'Cumbungi' into your search engine eg Google to locate.

The Southern Midlands Council also has a wide range of weed information brochures available at the Council offices in Oatlands and Kempton. Helen Geard at the Landcare Office can be contacted on 6254 5047 (Monday or Tuesday) or 0417 599 816 for further assistance or if you would like a brochure posted to you.

The Arts Corner

SM Arts Advisory Committee

Southern Midlands Council recently appointed its Arts Advisory Committee to implement the SM Arts Strategy.

The aim of the Southern Midlands Arts Strategy is to enable groups, organisations and individuals involved in the arts to work effectively and creatively with each other in developing diverse opportunities for involving the Community in quality arts activities and creative expression. This strategy recognises the important role the arts plays in enabling people to share and celebrate their creativity as well as their cultures with the wider community.

The Arts Advisory Committee comprises the following members;

Edwin Batt (Chairman) from Melton Mowbray, Clr John Jones OAM (Deputy Chairman) from Kempton, Barbara Hamilton from Oatlands, Dorothy Evans from Tunbridge, Malcolm Hamilton from Oatlands, Lisa Rudd from Kempton, and Anne Kerneke from Mangalore. Clr Bob Campbell is the proxy for Clr Jones and Andrew Benson, Council's Manager Community & Corporate Development is the Convenor.

The Southern Midlands Arts Strategy defines 'the arts' as...

The term "the arts" includes but is not limited to music (instrumental and vocal), dance, drama, folk art, creative writing, architecture and allied fields, painting, sculpture, photography, graphic and craft arts, industrial design, blacksmithing, costume and fashion design, motion pictures, television, radio, tape and sound recording, the arts related to the presentation, performance, execution

and exhibition of such major art forms, and the study and application of the arts to the human environment. – In short all forms of creative endeavor.

We have some energetic and passionate people that have progressed their interest in the arts by forming groups such as the Greater Green Ponds Arts Group, the Southern Midlands Arts Gallery Group. Both are affiliated with Tas Regional Arts Inc, with the former being a long standing organisation that has had a calendar of events for many years which focuses on a wide range of artistic endeavour, the latter is a more recent organisation that formed last year to display art works in a shop-front in High Street Oatlands. These are but two groups that have fun and do amazing things; there are many more equally talented people out there across the Southern Midlands.

We would like to encourage our Community to contact Members of the Committee to raise ideas, talk about what is happening in the Arts across the Southern Midlands and to network with like-minded people. We welcome your comments and input. Let us know what you are doing and if you would like to share it with others. Like to know more? Zap me a note at abenson@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au and your information will be tabled at the Committee meetings. Stay in touch with activities and projects via the Council website www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au search for "Arts and Cultural Development" and you will find our page.

Don't forget to visit the Jocelyn Chapman exhibition of *Country Homes in the Southern Midlands* at the Heritage Highway Visitor Centre the Callington Mill Complex 1 Mill Lane Oatlands opening Friday the 15 November 2013 @ 6.30pm Exhibition continues until Sunday 19 January 2014.

Andrew Benson
Convenor – SM Arts Advisory Committee



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Campania Cricket Club

The official launch of the new Campana Cricket Club nets was held on Thursday 10th October at the Campana Recreation Ground. The Deputy Mayor, Mark Jones OAM opened proceedings by thanking the Campana Cricket Club committee members and Council officers for their tireless work in assisting project manage the construction of the new nets. Nigel Grice and Jarrod Beven were particularly mentioned as having gone 'above and beyond' in ensuring the project finished on time and within its almost \$50,000 budget. Sport and Recreation Tasmania[SRT] and Council were both acknowledged as strong financial supporters of the project, and Executive Director of SRT



Craig Martin was on hand to accept the sincere appreciation and accolades from all involved.

Rebecca White MP Member for Lyons completed proceedings by confirming that sports clubs in rural/semi rural areas play a very important part in establishing a sense of community and well being among its residents and members and that they are the hub of the township through sport and social inclusion of people of all ages. Rebecca went on to bowl a few deliveries in the new nets followed by officially announcing the 'opening' of the facility.

Council wishes to again thank all involved in the successful completion of this excellent facility.

BLESSING OF THE GRAVES



Within the Catholic Church November has always been a time when special prayers are said for deceased relatives and friends. This year on Sunday, 24th November, members of the community are invited to gather with parishioners at the Oatlands Cemetery at 2pm and the Tun-nack Cemetery at 3.30pm for a short ceremony of prayer and blessing of the graves.

SHIPPING CONTAINERS

Do you have a shipping container on your property for which you have not obtained a permit?

Shipping containers are in effect a building and the Building Regulations require that you obtain a building permit from Council for shipping containers.

In all circumstances they will require building approval and may also require a Planning Permit.

- Building regulations ensure safety. If shipping containers are inadequately anchored to the ground they can be blown over or across the ground by high winds. If ventilation is not installed and no improvements are made to their door mechanisms there is the chance of accidental lock-in and suffocation.
- Planning regulations ensure new development fits with community expectations. Within towns and villages - and especially within our historic precincts - shipping containers may not be allowed or may be required to be 'dressed up' to make a better fit with local character, such as creating a pitched roof and cladding the walls in traditional corrugated-profile colorbond of an appropriate colour. In rural areas shipping containers may need to be painted an appropriate colour on publicly visible sites.

These approval processes also enable Council to ensure that shipping containers are not located over rights-of-way, service easements and other infrastructure or too close to property boundaries.

The temporary placement of shipping containers on building sites for the secure storage of building materials and equipment is allowable whilst a building permit is in place, and must be removed at the completion of the project. Even so, they should still be adequately anchored to the ground, be ventilated and measures put in place to prevent accidental lock-in.

If you are thinking of placing a shipping container on your property, or if you have an existing unauthorised shipping container and wish to seek the necessary approvals to legitimise it, please contact Shane Mitchell phone 03 62593003 (Mon/Tues/Thur) at Council's Kempton office or email mail@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au

Oatlands Swimming Pool

From Saturday 30 November 2013 from 11.00am

Opening Hours

Mon – Friday (during school term) 2.00 pm – 6.00 pm
 School Holiday, Weekends & Public Holidays 11.00 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	

Note: Out of hours bookings must be supervised by Councils supervisor at all times. Application is to be made seven days in advance to Council phone 03 62545000

Students are required to have a current student identification card.



Closed Christmas Day

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!

Council Meetings 2013

Wednesday 27th November 2013
Oatlands Council Chambers 71 High Street Oatlands
Wednesday 11th December 2013
Council Chambers 85 Main Street Kempton

Annual General Meeting
Council's Annual General Meeting will be held on the 11th December 2013 at the Municipal Offices, Kempton commencing at 5.00 pm.
[A public copy of Council meeting agendas and minutes](#) are available www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au



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 drinks.

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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Deputy Mayor Mark Jones O.A.M.
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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