



Newsletter

ISSUE 1 | February 2026



From the Mayor's Desk

Autumn has come around quickly after a dry summer. Cricket will soon make way for football and I wish the Oatlands and Districts Football Association all the best for the coming season. Council trusts that the improvements it has made to our major ovals at Kempton, Campania and Oatlands will work out well for participants and fans alike. The Woodsdale community have had their oval transferred from Council to their organization for the princely sum of one dollar, and Council will provide them with \$45,000 once they are properly underway in their efforts to rejuvenate Wallaby Park. We wish the Lions, and all the clubs well. Council recognises the great community benefit derived from investment in sport. In this regard it is heartening to see the climb in numbers utilising the Oatlands Aquatic Centre.

Council wishes to thank the Broadmarsh and Elderslie Progress Association for hosting the Australia Day Awards ceremony at the Broadmarsh Hall. With a large attendance it was most enjoyable. The respected Mrs. Lucy Blackwell of that district was well received as Citizen of the Year. The time-honoured Christmas turnout of the Tunnack Fire Brigade was rightfully pronounced Event of the Year.



Top:
Mrs Lucy Blackwell

Right:
Tunnack Fire
Brigade



And whilst on the topic of events, congratulations must go to the Green Ponds Progress Association and the Kempton Festival Committee for their wonderful Festival and Sheep Racing day. Blessed with perfect weather, a very large crowd had a top time amongst the many attractions.

As residents in and around Oatlands would be aware, a Village Square is being planned and a community consultation process is underway, scoping out the options.

The Oatlands Structure Plan adopted by Council in 2021 had this project identified as the highest recommendation. I would like to thank the many respondents to our Community Consultation survey. This feedback provides great guidance as the project committee (Deputy Mayor Dudgeon, Cirs Bisdee and Fish led by Deputy GM Andrew Benson) undertake their deliberations.

Like all good businesses, Council must run to a budget and now we must set a new budget for 2026/27. This process will commence with a series of workshops beginning next month. Councillors are always willing to receive proposals from ratepayers as to where expenditure might usefully be made so please don't hesitate to contact me or any of your Councillors with expenditure ideas that we might be able to include in the budget process.

Finally, I remind you that Local Government elections will be conducted this year. I urge anyone with an interest in the affairs of our municipality to consider standing. If you wish to seek some guidance in this regard I am more than happy to help.

Clr E Batt, Mayor

Register to Receive Your Rates Notices by Email

We are calling on our customers to register an email address and 'Opt In' to receive Rates Notices electronically.

With the increased cost of postage and longer delivery times, electronic delivery will be faster, convenient, and will help Council reduce its carbon footprint.



By opting in for electronic delivery: You will receive your Rates Notices as an attached PDF sent to your email address. You will no longer receive a copy by regular post. This service will provide a faster, more reliable and environmentally friendly alternative to paper copies.

Please visit:

<https://www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au/property-and-rates/> to register

Oatlands Village Square Project Consultation Summary

Overview

The Southern Midlands Council conducted a community consultation and survey as part of the Oatlands Village Square Project to gather community feedback on early-stage design and planning elements.

This consultation builds on the Oatlands Structure Plan 2021, focusing on precinct-level decisions before the detailed design of the square begins.

Survey Structure - Participants were invited to respond Yes/No to statements such as:

- “I understand the issue and agree it requires addressing.”
- “I agree with the proposed concept to address the issue.”
- Provide comments or suggestions explaining their views or offering alternatives.

Survey topics corresponded to display panels covering various design and infrastructure issues around Oatlands’ civic centre.

Key Issues Covered - Some of the precursor issues included:

- Location of the public toilet in the Council carpark – should it stay or be relocated?
- Provision of disability parking in the carpark;
- Access improvements to the side entrance of the Council building;
- Whether Stutzer Street should be:
 - Closed to create a large public open space in front of the Council Chambers building and Roche Hall;
 - Converted to one-way traffic for part of its length

Community Consultation Findings - Overall Support

- The community showed strong support for the project and the initial preparatory steps.
- The survey results will guide the next stage — the detailed design phase.

Public Toilet Location (Slide 14)

- 83% supported a new public toilet facility, acknowledging accessibility issues with the current one.
- 74% supported relocating the existing facility from its current location.
- However, 70% opposed relocating the new toilet block to the Barrack Street carpark, suggesting alternative sites instead.
- Next step: Investigate and cost potential alternative sites for Council consideration.

Stutzer Street Options (Slides 17 & 18)

- 96% agreed that Stutzer Street’s slope and cross fall issues must be addressed.
- However, feedback on whether to close or make it one-way was closely split, with mixed views.

Project Management Approach - The Oatlands Village Square Working Group emphasised:

- Every identified element impacts the final design.
- Each should be resolved early rather than retrofitted later.
- The process should align with “sense of place” principles, preserving Oatlands’ historic character.
- The integrated approach follows best practice project management, avoiding duplication or rework.

It is appropriate to acknowledge appreciation to all who contributed to the Oatlands Structure Plan, those who attended the display sessions in the Supreme Court building and who reviewed materials online and completed the survey with detailed comments. Their input was essential in forming a community-backed pathway for the project.

Further Information:

For details or inquiries contact Andrew Benson abenson@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au or visit the Council website to check out the documentation and the Council Report:

<https://www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au/oatlands-village-square-project>

Oatlands Village Square Project



Weed Report

Ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*), sometimes also known as St James' wort, is a declared weed in Tasmania. It is native to Europe and Asia, and is an erect herb which can grow from around 45cm – 1.2m high. It starts life as a flat rosette of distinctive leaves and in the second year an upright stem grows up with clusters of bright yellow daisy flowers at the top. It flowers from late spring to early Autumn, and once flowers have set seed the plant dies. However, if ragwort is disturbed (ie. from grazing, slashing etc.), it can turn into a perennial plant, resprouting from underground root crowns. This is a tough and adaptable plant.

Ragwort produces not one, but two different types of seed. One type is smooth and heavy, falling to the ground once mature. The second type has a bristly external coat (which allows it to attach to animals, clothes, machinery or in contaminated hay or soil) with a "pappus" attached – the white feathery 'parachutes' which allow seeds to disperse via the wind. This second type of seed can move much further from the parent plant... One ragwort plant can produce 250,000 seeds annually.

Ragwort is highly toxic to cattle and horses, less so to sheep. Livestock generally avoid eating live green plants, but it is more palatable (and just as toxic!) when it is dried and fed out in silage or hay. It prefers higher rainfall areas, but it will still grow throughout the southern midlands. Biological control agents have been released in the past in Tasmania, but current status of the ragwort flea beetle, ragwort stem and crown boring moth, and the ragwort plume moth is unknown.

There are a number of native species of *Senecio* which appear similar to ragwort: if in doubt, email some good, clear close-up photos of the plant, and its location, to the SMC weeds officer, Mary Smyth at msmyth@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au



Ragwort Leaves



Ragwort Flowers

Oatlands Aquatic Centre - Ticket to Veterans Program

The Oatlands Aquatic Centre is now a provider for The Veteran Wellbeing Voucher Program which focus on reducing the cost of sport and active recreation membership. The program is available for eligible Tasmanian veterans and for a partner/spouse of a former service member with a DVA Pensioner concession card (PCC), or a war widow/er with a DVA Gold card.

The objective of the Program is to enable Veteran's participation in healthy activities that will support their health and wellbeing and help build social networks.



Eligible applicants can apply once per financial year for two vouchers valued at \$100 each (\$200 total) to reduce the cost of registration or membership at participating gyms, active community recreation, and sporting clubs.

Gyms, community recreation and sports clubs also benefit by an opportunity to grow their membership and are reimbursed for each voucher they accept. The program is open to gyms and clubs throughout Tasmania. For further information please visit:

<https://veterans.tas.gov.au/wellbeing-vouchers>

The Southern Midlands of Tasmania is where a blend of good old fashioned values and modern ideas co-exist.
The Southern Midlands Council is a rural local government authority with approximately 4200 rateable properties and 6700 persons scattered throughout the districts.

Towns & localities include *Mangalore, Pontville, Bagdad, Broadmarsh, Elderslie, Dysart, Kempton, Melton Mowbray, Oatlands, Tunbridge, Tunnack, Parattah, Mt Seymour, Woodsdale, Levendale, Runnymede, Colebrook, Campania & Rekuna.*

CONTACT US

OATLANDS OFFICE 71 High Street, Oatlands 7120

General Managers Unit; Corporate Services, Infrastructure & Works,
Natural Resource Management, Heritage Projects.

Customer Service Opening Hours:

Monday to Friday - 9.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Phone: 03 6254 5000 (Mon-Fri 8.30am - 5.00pm)

Fax: 03 6254 5014

Email: mail@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au

Web: www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au

KEMPTON OFFICE 85 Main Street, Kempton 7030

Development & Environmental Services and
Community & Corporate Development

Customer Service Opening Hours:

Monday to Friday - 9.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Phone: 03 6254 5050

Fax: 03 6254 5014

Email: mail@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au

Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary

345 Chauncy Vale Road, Bagdad

Phone: 03 6254 5050

Web: www.chauncyvale.com

Email: mail@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au

OATLANDS AQUATIC CENTRE 70 High Street Oatlands

Phone: 6254 5024

Email: oac@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au

Opening Hours:

Monday—Friday 7.00 a.m.—7.00 p.m.

Sat 9.00 a.m.—5.00 p.m. Sunday 10.00 a.m.—5.00 p.m.

WASTE TRANSFER STATION OPENING HOURS

OATLANDS

WASTE TRANSFER STATION

Inglewood Road, Andover
(Via Tunnack Main Road, Oatlands)

Tuesday 8.00 am - 12.00 noon

Friday 11.00 am - 3.00 pm

Saturday 8.00 am - 12.00 noon

Sunday 1.00 pm - 5.00 pm

CAMPANIA

WASTE TRANSFER STATION

Brown Mountain Road, Campania

Tuesday 1.00 pm - 5.00 pm

Thursday 1.00 pm - 5.00 pm

Saturday 1.00 pm - 5.00 pm

Sunday 8.00 am - 12.00 pm

DYSART

WASTE TRANSFER STATION

Huntingdon Tier Road, Dysart

Tuesday 1.00 pm - 5.00 pm

Saturday 1.00 pm - 5.00 pm

Sunday 1.00 pm - 5.00 pm

Service Tasmania

71 High Street, Oatlands

Phone 1300 13 55 13

Monday to Friday 11.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.

COUNCILLORS

Mayor & Councillor enquiries can be directed to
Jemma Crosswell (Executive Assistant) - 6254 5004
or via contact details below

Mayor Edwin Batt	0400 009 471	ebatt@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au	For all after hours Water & Sewerage TasWater emergencies please phone 136 992
Deputy Mayor Karen Dudgeon	0428 361 807	kdudgeon@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au	
Clr Tony Bisdee OAM	0418 355 158	abisdee@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au	For all after hours Tasmanian Gas Pipeline emergencies please phone 1800 195 666
Clr Robert (Bob) Campbell	03 6255 5293	rcampbell@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au	
Clr Don Fish	03 6255 5157	dfish@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au	For all road issues relating to the Midland Highway, Mudwalls Road or Tunnack Main Road please phone Dept. of State Growth on 1300 139 933
Clr Donna Blackwell	0408 146 754	dblackwell@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au	
Clr Fraser Miller	0497 611 777	fmiller@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au	

AFTER HOURS

Council emergencies
please phone
0419 325 405