



Newsletter

Issue 4 | October 2024



From the Mayor's Desk

There have been some great developments since our last quarterly newsletter that I would like to briefly share with you.

I'm pleased to be able to say the Department of State Growth has now made a grant available of \$278,000 that will enable Council to commence the construction of a pathway from the northern end of Kempton through to Mood Food. This pedestrian/bicycle pathway will provide a link from the town to its shop and is a much needed safeguard.

Council is well underway with its development of the Bagdad-Mangalore Structure Plan (refer separate article in this newsletter). This will deliver our vision for that area, and take into account the future need for community facilities, open spaces, land supply, sewerage needs, growth boundaries etc. I am pleased Council's consultants on the project, Jensen PLUS, will have the benefit of input from an agronomist. We have great rural towns in our region, but agriculture has always been the back bone of the Southern Midlands. With that in mind, Council will be advocating with our farmers for federal funding to develop the south eastern irrigation scheme to protect and increase the capacity of growers in our region.

Continuing with the "big picture" theme, Council is making an application under the Australian Government's Growing Regions Program to develop the land and facilities around Bagdad Community Club area. Watch this space!

It was a pleasure to sit on the Committee, chaired by Clr Don Fish, to make recommendations to Council on Council's community small grants applications. The number and scope of the applications was indicative of a lively community with much volunteer commitment. I congratulate the successful applicants.

Whilst we have had a great start to Spring, the wonderful growth can quickly turn to bushfire fuel so here's a reminder to prepare your bushfire safety plan. If you feel like you have the time and are able, contact your local fire brigade and see about becoming a volunteer firefighter. It can be a very rewarding commitment.

Clr E Batt, Mayor

Planning Futures for Bagdad-Mangalore

Southern Midlands Council has commenced preparation of a long-term plan for the Bagdad-Mangalore valley, to replace the 2010 Bagdad-Mangalore Structure Plan.

The current Structure Plan is over 14 years old, and some of the fundamental drivers have changed in the time since. For example, there are new employment opportunities in the Brighton area, with the advent of the Brighton industrial precinct and freight hub. Midland Highway upgrades, completed in recent years, lowered the speed limit through the valley and created a right-turn lane along the centre of the road. While bringing local benefits, this investment means a highway bypass is not likely in the short term. At the same time, the new Bridgewater Bridge will benefit travel times between Bagdad-Mangalore and Greater Hobart.

Tasmania's housing shortages have contributed to cause stress to many households as demand has far outstripped supply, to the detriment and great distress of many Tasmanians. It is incumbent on all councils and communities to investigate new housing opportunities, including at Bagdad-Mangalore.

The development of a new Bagdad-Mangalore Structure Plan will be an opportunity for community members, community groups, business owners, and anyone with an interest in the future of this area to contribute their ideas and help establish a 'vision' and a suite of strategies needed to work towards that vision.

Key areas of focus will be housing needs, roads and paths, open space, community infrastructure, liveability and sustainability, agricultural land and economic opportunities. The Structure Plan will include recommendations for physical improvements, planning scheme amendments, actions to achieve community goals over time, and other strategies desired by the community.

Council has engaged a planning consultancy, Jensen PLUS, to work with community members, community groups, Council and infrastructure providers to help prepare the Plan.

There will be a number of opportunities to be involved in over the coming 12 months, including providing submissions and participating in community workshops scheduled for early 2025. This is where all interested members of the community will have the opportunity to express their goals, desires and priorities for the future.

More details about the project will be available in November, along with an initial community survey to learn more about community priorities for Bagdad-Mangalore.

For more information, visit Council's website at www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au

Infrastructure Upgrades

Bagdad Shared Pathway

As part of Council's ongoing commitment to providing safer and more user friendly mobility infrastructure within our township areas, construction has commenced on a shared pathway for all users to enjoy. This stage begins at the Bagdad Community Centre and will proceed north towards Iden Road.

An integral part of the upgrade project was ensuring that the 2 existing pedestrian bridges were upgraded to meet current standards and user expectations.

The project has experienced some delays due to weather conditions, however is expected to be completed within the coming months.



Midlands Multi-Purpose Health Centre Units

Council has recently completed the construction of 2 residential accommodation units at Church Street in Oatlands. The Units will provide accommodation for locum General Practitioners; visiting medical specialists; and personnel working at the Midlands Multi-Purpose Health Centre (MMPHC).

This project was jointly funded by the Tasmanian Government; Southern Midlands Council; MMPHC Auxiliary and the MMPHC Community Advisory Committee.



Pool Safety – Information for Owners

If your swimming pool or spa holds a depth of water of **300mm (30cm)** or more you must install a pool safety barrier. This requirement applies to pools and spas installed from 1994 onwards.

Pools and spas which **MUST** have a barrier

The requirement to install pool safety barriers applies to pools which are:

- in-ground
- indoor (excluding bathroom spa-baths)
- above ground
- inflatable and relocatable
- wading pools holding 300mm (30cm) of water
- hot tubs/spas



Who can install pool safety barriers?

In Tasmania, installation of pool safety barriers must be performed by a licensed builder and overseen by a licensed building surveyor. Pools and spas which don't require a barrier:

- Pools and spas (including inflatable) which hold less than 300mm (30cm) of water
- Indoor spa-baths (bathroom spas which are emptied after each use)
- Domestic baths emptied after each use
- Bird baths
- Fountains
- Water supply and storage tanks
- Fish ponds
- Dams

Inflatable and relocatable pools

Inflatable and relocatable pools which hold a depth of water of 300mm (30cm) or more must be enclosed by a compliant barrier. An owner may install the pool only after a safety barrier is installed and checked by a licensed building surveyor.

Who has to maintain a pool safety barrier?

Maintaining a pool safety barrier is the owner's responsibility. Owners should check:

- gates are self-closing correctly and not propped open
- latches on gates work correctly
- items/furniture are not placed against the barrier to enable climbing (including on neighboring property)
- landscaping does not allow climbing
- openings in the barrier have not increased due to movement of the ground or barrier
- the barrier remains structurally sound

Tip Tips

When taking green waste to the tip, please be aware that green waste is simply **natural, biological plant materials only**.

NO MANUFACTURED GOODS!

That means NO cloths, rags, shoes, leather or clothes.

NO rocks, bricks, rubble, concrete, stones or pebbles.

NO sawn timber, permapine, plywood, particle board etc.

NO plastic pots, punnets, plant tags, plant ties, string, twine, or stakes.

NO balls, toys, trellis, bin bags, tarps, tyre inner tubes, rope, duct tape, wool, cardboard, clay or ceramic articles, hoses or bags of dog poo.

NO filter wool, foam, tyres, insulation, metals, wire, cans, fencing, or hot ash.

NO plastics of any sort, including drink bottles, lids, chip packets, gloves, masks, or other litter.

NO glass, broken or otherwise.

All of these materials (and more) are regularly dumped in with green waste. Please be considerate and keep rubbish and recyclables out of the green waste piles.

**Southern Midlands Council Seniors Program**

Southern Midlands Council (SMC) provides a senior program which involves trips to various destinations for the seniors of the SMC municipality. The trips are well attended and we often have a waiting list!

Many seniors in rural areas experience social isolation and loneliness, which can impact their mental health. The SMC seniors program aims to get the seniors out and about and interacting with a wide range of the community. Some previous trips have been to Waddamana and the Great Lakes Hotel, Agfest, Crawleighwood Garden and the Salmon Ponds. There are three bus pick up points along the Midlands Highway, Bagdad, Kempton and Oatlands.

We have limited spaces on our current trip to Woolmers Estate Rose Festival on 23 November 2024. Please contact Council on 6254 5050 if you would like to attend or if you would like to be put on our mailing list for future trips.

Southern Midlands Community Small Grants Program 2024

Council received sixteen applications identifying \$105,709.00 worth of projects to be undertaken in the Southern Midlands for the benefit of the Community, requesting a total of \$43,643.00, but acknowledging the acceptance of a lower figure (will accept) of \$36,237.00 of support from Council through the SMC Community Small Grants Program 2024. Council had allocated \$25,000.00 in its 2024/2025 budget for the Program. A rigorous and transparent assessment was undertaken, addressing the fourteen assessment criteria, as detailed within the grant guidelines. The available funds being allocated in priority order in accordance with the assessment results, until the available funds were taken up.

The following organisations were successful with this year's grants:

Broadmarsh Elderslie Progress Association Inc.	\$ 1,500
Colebrook Recreation Centre Inc.	\$ 2,500
Kempton Festival/GPPA	\$ 2,500
Levendale Cricket Club Inc.	\$ 2,000
Mount Pleasant Football Club Inc.	\$ 2,000
Navigate Family Services Inc.	\$ 2,727
Oatlands District High School Association	\$ 3,000
Oatlands Football Club Inc.	\$ 2,990
Oatlands Golf Club Inc.	\$ 2,215
St Marys Community Cemetery Inc.	\$ 1,750
Tunnack Community Club Inc.	\$ 1,818



That then exhausted the available funds with six organisations unfortunately not being able to be funded this year. Council have scheduled an increase in the budget for next year's Program.

From an historical perspective it is interesting to note that since the inception of the Southern Midlands Community Small Grants Program in 2007, Council have paid out to Community Groups through this Program \$397,697.00, supporting \$1,338,986.00 worth of meaningful Community Projects.

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 3800 ratable properties and 6000 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—2023

Mayor & Councillor enquiries can be directed to
Jemma Thomas (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	mail@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