



Newsletter

ISSUE 3 | October 2025



From the Mayor's Desk

In recent weeks, the Southern Midlands Council has reviewed two proposed reforms initiated by the Tasmanian State Government, as part of its *Local Government Priority Reform Program*.

1. Targeted Amendments to the *Local Government Act 1993*

The draft Bill circulated for comment represents a key milestone in advancing the Government's reform agenda. The amendments primarily aim to lift standards, professionalism, conduct, and integrity within local government and promote a high-performing, transparent, and accountable local government sector.

The draft Bill is open for consultation until 5 p.m. on 17 November 2025. For further information contact localgovernment@dpac.tas.gov.au

2. Review of Elected Member Numbers and Allowances

The proposal includes consideration of changes to councillor numbers and remuneration across all councils. For the Southern Midlands Council, it is recommended that the current number of elected members remain at seven (7) and Councillor Allowances are proposed to increase by approximately 14%.

Council has endorsed the proposed reforms, including the proposed methodology for determining the amount of allowance(s) paid.

Return of the Melton Mowbray Trough

The heritage listed Melton Mowbray trough has been returned to the town, to the near-complete C.L. Batt OAM Memorial Park. The trough has been associated with the Melton Mowbray Hotel since it was constructed in 1858. Weighing an estimated 5 tons, and carved from a single piece of sandstone, the trough was an essential part of watering the horses of the coaching industry and travellers (while they watered themselves at the hotel!). Since the advent of the motor vehicle, the trough remained as a historic reminder in front of the hotel.

The park has been established by Southern Midlands Council to provide a permanent home for the trough



and to retain its association with Melton Mowbray. Interpretation panels telling the story of the trough, the hotel, the town and some of its citizens will be installed in the near future for what will no doubt be a popular roadside stopover.

Cllr E Batt, Mayor

Flour Mill Park Redevelopment Project - Campania

In September 2024, Recreation/Landscape Architects, *Inspiring Place* were contracted to undertake the following tasks as part of the re-development of Flour Mill Park in Campania.

1. Undertake Community and Stakeholder engagement, including with the Campania District School;
2. Undertake a Consultation Survey;
3. Consider the opportunities along with constraints emanating from 1 and 2 above;
4. Consideration of the design principals of the site, whilst understanding the current and future uses of the site;
5. Develop a draft Concept Plan for the site; and
6. Following feedback from Council and the community deliver a Final Concept Report.

The Design Consultants, *Inspiring Place*, Concept Report was considered by Council along with four sets of community feedback at the October Council meeting. It was observed that most of the matters raised by the community feedback were matters that will be able to be addressed as Council travel the implementation / construction phases over the next few years. However, one of the matters that was raised, was that of an Off-Lead Dog Park and could one be incorporated within the Concept Design. Council have asked for views from the broader community to be gauged in seeking interest in having an off lead dog park in Campania, as shown on the Concept Design on council's website. If members of the community would like to share their respective views on the merits or otherwise of an Off-Lead Dog Park, please email Deputy General Manager, Andrew Benson at abenson@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au, by the 19th November 2025.

Whilst Council endorse the overall plan, Council Officers have been asked to engage with the Department of Education, Children and Young People, and the Campania District School to explore future options in respect of the use of the Old Flour Mill building, along with its relationship to Flour Mill Park. The Flour Mill Park Concept Design Report is available at <https://www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au/news/?item=981>

Update on Recycling in the Southern Midlands

Southern Midlands Council (SMC) has recently appointed a new contractor for kerbside waste and recycling collection: Veolia Environmental Services.

Since taking over, Veolia has been collecting data from the yellow-lidded recycling bins across the municipality. Their goal has been to assess the level of contamination—that is, how many non-recyclable items are being placed into recycling bins.

What They've Found

Unfortunately, early results show that there is still a high level of contamination in our yellow bins.

Non-recyclable items commonly found include:

- **Food scraps and packaging with food residue**
- **Soft plastics** (like plastic bags or wrappers)
- **Green waste**
- **Nappies**
- **Textiles**
- **Vapes, batteries, and small electronics**

These materials cannot be recycled through our kerbside program and create serious problems for the recycling process.

Why It Matters

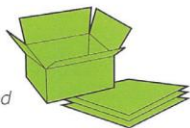
- Contamination can cause entire loads of recycling to be rejected and sent to landfill.
- It puts workers at risk – especially when hazardous materials like vapes, batteries, or medical waste are included.
- It **increases costs** for the Council and ratepayers — proper sorting is critical to keeping waste management effective and sustainable.

What **CAN** go into your kerbside recycling bin...



Paper and cardboard

Office paper, cardboard, letters and envelopes, junk mail, telephone books, pizza boxes (clean), newspaper, magazines, pamphlets and paper bags



Metal cans

Aluminium, steel and tin-plated cans, aluminium foil (clean), paint tins (empty) and aerosol cans.



Glass

Bottles and jars (remove lids).



Hard plastic containers

Please empty and remove caps.



What should **NEVER** go into your kerbside recycling bin...



- ✗ Batteries
- ✗ Bubble wrap
- ✗ Building materials
- ✗ Carpet
- ✗ Clothing
- ✗ Computers & TVs
- ✗ Coat hangers
- ✗ Crockery
- ✗ Electrical appliances
- ✗ Food scraps
- ✗ Furniture
- ✗ Garden waste
- ✗ Garden hose
- ✗ Gas bottles
- ✗ Medical items
- ✗ Nappies
- ✗ Polystyrene
- ✗ Plastic bags
- ✗ Paint cans (full / partially full)
- ✗ Plastic toys
- ✗ Saucepans, pots & pans
- ✗ Shredded paper
- ✗ Soft plastic
- ✗ Shoes & handbags
- ✗ Syringes
- ✗ Tetra Packs
- ✗ Waxed Cardboard (Coffee Cups)
- ✗ Wheel caps



Recycling tips

To recycle your plastic you need to know:

- Not all plastic packaging displays the recycling triangle (officially known as the Plastic Identification Code). This triangle tells you what plastic was used to make the packaging, not whether the packaging is recyclable.

- Plastic can be placed into two categories:

1. Hard Plastic

Any plastic that is rigid or holds its shape, for example shampoo bottles, can be recycled through your kerbside recycling bin.



2. Soft Plastic

Plastic that is flexible, for example, bread bags, bubble wrap and plastic bags, cannot be recycled in any Tasmanian kerbside recycling collection. Most major supermarkets now accept clean, flexible plastics for recycling. Some transfer stations accept soft plastic.



RESIDENTS PLEASE NOTE - CHRISTMAS DAY KERBSIDE COLLECTION

Collection currently scheduled for the Oatlands, Jericho, Tunbridge areas Thursday the 25th December- will now be collected on **Sunday the 28th December**, all other collection areas remain as is- as per the normal scheduled pick up days.

Southern Midlands Community Small Grants Program 2025

Council has conducted a Community Small Grants program twice a year since 2008, converting to an annual program in September 2009. The main aim of the program is to streamline and condense the many requests for financial support received from various community groups, charitable organisations and service providers throughout the year. The program has proven to be very popular with all the target groups and excellent goodwill is gleaned from the successful grant recipients. Additional kudos has been obtained by having presentations to successful Grantee organisations at the Australia Day function in January.

Council received nine applications identifying \$36,608.00 worth of projects to be undertaken in the Southern Midlands for the benefit of the Community, requesting a total of \$21,648.00, of support from Council through the SMC Community Small Grants Program 2025. The following organisations/Groups were successful in this year's program.

Campania Community Group Inc.

For Community First Aid Training \$ 1,770.00

Campania Community Group Inc.

Creation of a History Room as part of the Campania War Memorial Hall,
subject to formal agreement with the Campania Hall Committee and Council \$2,353.00

Oatlands Community Association Inc.

New stove for the Midlands Memorial Community Centre \$ 1,409.00

Oatlands District Football Association Inc.

Office equipment upgrade. \$ 2,000.00

Oatlands Ex-Service & Community Club Inc.

EFPOS machine upgrade. \$ 2,228.00

Oatlands Highland Gathering Committee

Purchase of portable stage components for Community use. \$ 3,000.00

Oatlands Swim Club

Swim training pool equipment. \$ 3,000.00

Tunnack Community Club Inc.

Roof repairs. \$ 3,000.00

Woodsdale Football Club Inc.

Replacement refrigerator. \$ 2,888.00

From an historical perspective it is interesting to note that since the inception of the Southern Midlands Community Small Grants Program in 2008, Council have paid out to Community Groups through this Program \$ 518,742.00, supporting Southern Midlands Community Projects. It is acknowledged that this Program has made a significant contribution to the Southern Midlands Community through the Southern Midlands Community Small Grants Program.

BE FIRE READY THIS SEASON

With the warmer months approaching, now is the perfect time to check your property and make sure it's prepared for the fire season. Keeping grass low, removing dry vegetation and clearing around sheds, fences and buildings can make a big difference in protecting your home and community.

Council officers will soon begin property inspections across the Southern Midlands. Where necessary, Fire Abatement Notices may be issued under the *Local Government Act 1993* to address identified fire hazards.

We appreciate everyone's cooperation in helping to reduce fire risks this summer. Working together, we can help keep our community safe.

For more information or advice, please contact Council on 6254 5050 or email mail@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au

'Eddington Cottage' Bagdad

Council has recently purchased the property on the corner of Midland Highway and Hall Lane, Bagdad. It is intended that the land will be used in connection with the Bagdad Community Club, for additional parking as well as recreation facilities following further community consultation. The cottage on the site is listed as a Local Historic Heritage Place on the Tasmanian Planning Scheme – Southern Midlands, and accordingly Council officers are preparing a conservation management plan for the building, to guide its conservation and restoration. Preliminary research has indicated that a part of the building may date back to the 1810s, built by Norfolk Island settler James Eddington.

This would make it one of the earliest buildings known in the Southern Midlands. A lot of work needs to be done, but Council will soon be doing a tidy-up of the site in preparation for future works, whilst master-planning and community consultation is to be undertaken. For any questions or suggestions, please contact Manager – Heritage Projects, Brad Williams on 0418 303 184 or email bwilliams@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au



Oatlands Old General Cemetery

The Oatlands Old General Cemetery was the earliest burial ground in Oatlands, operational from 1827 to 1974. Before the establishment of denominational churches and cemeteries in Oatlands, the Old General Cemetery was the primary cemetery for the town prior to 1841 when burials began in St. Peter's Anglican Church Cemetery, and other cemeteries later. Burials continued in the Old General Cemetery until 1974, though mostly family of existing burials. Restoration works were completed and the sign near the entrance was unveiled in 1988. In recent years the Old General Cemetery has degraded, with many headstones and graves falling into disrepair.

Tania Virieux has created a Facebook group - Oatlands Old General Cemetery Family and Friends, to encourage community interest and descendants to maintain grave sites, as well as continue the work of the late Greame Raphael and the late Joan Cantwell, who were pivotal in the 1988 restoration. Joan created a list of burials which is available at the History Room in Oatlands.

See the Oatlands Old General Cemetery Family and Friends on Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/share/g/1aQcaSZcaT/>

Any enquiries regarding restoration works and maintenance to: cemeteries@midlandsanglican.org.au

Some records are held by the History Room Oatlands: OatlandsHistoryRoom@gmail.com (The History Room is open 10:30am-4pm 7 days a week).



**TARGA
TASMANIA**
The Ultimate Tarmac Rally

NOTICE OF ROAD CLOSURE

Application has been made to Council from TARGA TASMANIA 2025 for a road closure during this year's event for

ELDON ROAD

BETWEEN RHYNDASTON RD and GETTINGTON RD

BETWEEN 10.40am – 2.40pm

TUESDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2025

JD Bisdee VC OBE – Melton Mowbray

It was a rather cool and blustery day at Melton Mowbray, under the Memorial Trees on the 31st August 2025, the last day of winter, where close to a hundred people gathered in recognition of the 125th anniversary of the action of John Hutton Bisdee VC OBE, which saw him receive his Victoria Cross medal.

The display panel and plaque were funded by the Department of Veterans Affairs through the 'Saluting Their Service Grant Program'.

JOHNN HUTTON BISDEE (1869–1930) was born at 'Hutton Park', Melton Mowbray, Tasmania on 28 September 1869. He enlisted in the 1st Tasmanian Imperial Bushmen's Contingent to serve in the South African War. The contingent departed Tasmania on 26 April, 1900. Whilst serving in South Africa he was involved in military operations in the Cape Colony, Transvaal and the Orange River Colony.



For services in South Africa he received, amongst other medals, the Victoria Cross for bravery under fierce enemy fire. Bisdee's Victoria Cross was the first to be gazetted for an Australian-born soldier serving in an Australian unit.

He was wounded in action, and following his hospital recovery he returned to South Africa the following year, after being promoted to lieutenant in No. 1 Company, 2nd Tasmanian Bushmen's Contingent, where he served from March 1901 until the end of the war.

In March 1906 he was appointed second lieutenant in the 12th Australian Light Horse Regiment (Tasmanian Mounted Infantry) and was promoted to lieutenant in November 1908 and then to captain in March 1910.

Captain Bisdee was appointed to command his regiment, the 26th Australian Light Horse Regiment (Tasmanian Mounted Infantry) from August 1913 until July 1915, when he joined the 12th Light Horse Regiment, AIF.

Bisdee was promoted to major (AIF) in September. He was appointed as Assistant Provost Marshal (AIF) in Egypt in January 1918 and the following month he was granted the temporary rank of lieutenant-colonel. He was mentioned in dispatches and awarded an OBE in June 1919.

Bisdee was discharged from the AIF in May 1920, and transferred to the Reserve of Officers with the honorary rank of lieutenant-colonel. John Hutton Bisdee died at his home, 'Tranquility', Melton Mowbray, on 14 January 1930.

Major J.H. Bisdee, 1915.
Collection: Tasmanian Museum
and Art Gallery, S1957.253.

SUPPORTED BY



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

RSL Tasmania is developing a VC Trail to celebrate Tasmania's fifteen Victoria Cross recipients: rsltas.org.au/vc-trail

Speeches by MC, Andrew Benson; Welcome by Mayor Edwin Batt; Family Reflections by Clr Tony Bisdee OAM; Military Contribution & Courage, by Col. Dr R A Simpson AM (retd); Peter Taylor, President of the Brighton & Green Ponds RSL; Major Dylan McDonald, Royal Tasmanian Regiment (RTR); Peter Weir, President RTR Association; Reading by Maddi Jones; Reading by Lachie Jones; Chaplin Sean Conry; Ode, WO1, RSM James Stewart RTR.

The Tasmania Police Pipe Band under Drum Major Tony Coen OAM, accompanied the event.



Above: Maddi Jones and Lachie Jones, (Grand Children of Tony Bisdee), Cllr Tony Bisdee OAM and 'Lone Piper', Pipe Major Fraser Bolton from the Tasmania Police Pipe Band

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

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

COUNCILLORS			AFTER HOURS
Mayor Edwin Batt			Council emergencies please phone 0419 325 405
Deputy Mayor Karen Dudgeon	0400 009 471	ebatt@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au	For all after hours Water & Sewerage TasWater emergencies please phone 136 992
Clr Tony Bisdee OAM	0428 361 807	kdudgeon@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au	For all after hours Tasmanian Gas Pipeline emergencies please phone 1800 195 666
Clr Robert (Bob) Campbell	0418 355 158	abisdee@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 Don Fish	03 6255 5293	rcampbell@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au	
Clr Donna Blackwell	03 6255 5157	dfish@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au	
Clr Fraser Miller	0408 146 754	dblackwell@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au	
	0497 611 777	fmliller@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au	