



National Referendum for the recognition of Local Government in the Constitution – the YES vote

### The facts say YES for Southern Midlands

Undoubtedly the major issue for our council and Local Government across Australia is the pending referendum (to be held in conjunction with the Federal Election) to recognise Local Government in the Federal Constitution.

Residents of the Southern Midlands are urged to say YES to the facts in the upcoming referendum, in an effort to ensure that federal funding continues to be available for important local projects.

The Southern Midlands Council receives approximately \$440,000 per annum through the Roads to Recovery funding, plus other project specific funding. A prime example is the \$1.20 million for reconstruction of the Callington Mill. This funding is essential for council to continue to

provide safe and well maintained roads and to provide a range of other infrastructure to enhance our communities.

The reason for seeking to include Local Government in the Federal Constitution is based on a recent High Court of Australia decision that has cast some doubt on the legality of the Federal Government directly funding Local Government. Therefore this referendum is required by way of a YES vote to recognise Local Government in the Federal Constitution to validate direct funding.

A YES vote will preserve the sort of arrangements that, for more than 10 years, have funded these important local projects. Voting YES simply ensures existing practice can continue and that's a good thing for our community.

### The Proposed Southern Midlands Planning Scheme

The Southern Midlands Planning Scheme sets out the land use requirements for all land use and development within the Southern Midlands. Your council, along with all councils in Tasmania, are currently developing a new planning scheme for our local government area.

The project is now well advanced and we have just concluded an extensive public consultation phase seeking community input for the draft planning scheme.

From our public consultation sessions held in different locations within the municipality there were a considerable number of positive and valid suggestions coming from the community.

The process now is to review all of those written comments and submissions and for council to form a view in respect of these submissions, then submit the draft scheme to the Minister for his consideration to become the Interim Planning Scheme.

The complete process to a new Southern Midlands

Planning Scheme should, hopefully, be completed by the end of this calendar year.

One important aspect

of all new planning schemes is that they will incorporate for the first time a range of provisions which will provide commonality across all planning schemes in Tasmania, but also continue to include local provisions to



The Mayors from Tasmanian Local Government at the Australian Local Government conference in Canberra 2013 supporting local government.

reflect Local community standards for development.

### South East Irrigation Scheme - Stage 3

Council recently approved a development application for the proposed South East Irrigation Scheme – Stage 3. This proposed irrigation development further expands the potential for intensive agriculture within the Southern Midlands Area. The scheme will draw the water from a pipeline on the western side of the Derwent River, take water in a pipeline under the Derwent River at Bridgewater to Cobbs Hill then on to Tea Tree, Rekuna and Campania. The pipeline then continues on into the Sorell Municipality.

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### **Midlands Irrigation Scheme**

The Midlands Irrigation Scheme is now well advanced with completion anticipated by the end of this calendar year. This scheme adds further potential for agricultural expansion and the expected economic benefit to flow through to our local Community.

The Southern Midlands Council has invested considerable resources in facilitating and encouraging economic development within the region and it is pleasing to see our efforts are being rewarded for the benefit of the whole community.

### Council Budget 2013/2014

Council has recently adopted the Budget for the 2013-2014 financial year and the associated annual Rates and Charges to be levied. Refer separate section within this Newsletter for specific comments and details relating to the rates and charges; and projects which have been funded in the 2013/14 Capital Works Program.

#### Tribute

Regrettably I have to conclude on a sad note. Recently Mr (Tem) Fish OAM passed away. Tem Fish was a Councillor for the former Oatlands Council 1958 – 1970 and 1983 – 1990 and Warden from March 1990 until March 1993 of the Oatlands Council.

Tem was a dedicated and passionate community representative and leader who had great business acumen and a person who gained great respect and admiration from the whole community for his generosity, compassion and hard work.

He was a baker, farmer, racehorse owner and a successful sportsman. Tem lived life to the full and in doing so made many friends in every endeavour he undertook and was extremely successful in all of them. We extend our deepest sympathy to his family.

CIr Tony Bisdee OAM

# LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA (LGAT) - LIFE MEMBERSHIP (LONG SERVICE) AWARD Mayor Tony Bisdee OAM presented with Life Membership (Long Service) Award

At the recent Local Government Conference held in Hobart, the President of the LGAT (Mayor Barry Esther OAM) presented Mayor Tony Bisdee OAM with the Association's Life Membership (Long Service) Award.

This Award recognises members that have served local government for a minimum service period of 40 years; served in a senior elected member or management role; contributed significantly to the betterment of Local Government at the local or regional level; and achieved outcomes for local government and the community worthy of exceptional recognition.

In summary, this Award recognises that Tony has been an elected member in local government for 41 consecutive years, with approximately seventeen (17) of those years as the Mayor/Warden of both the Southern Midlands and Green Ponds Councils.

The Award also recognises Tony's preparedness to represent the broader local government sector, having served one term as



President of the Local Government Association of Tasmania. In addition, he has also held various National and State committee positions.

It is important to also acknowledge that Tony's service to Local Government and the community in general, has been previously recognised in 2009 when he was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia – For service to Local Government and to the Community of Southern Midlands.

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### 2013/14 RATES AND CHARGES INTRODUCTION

Whilst the General Rate has been increased by 2.95% for overall the 2013/14 financial year, as a result of new adjustment for properties classified as Primary Production (refer factors issued by the Valuer-General (refer detail below), Clause 1 (b) of the Rates Resolution). increases will vary depending upon the "Class" of the property.

By way of background information, under the Valuation of Land Act 2001 the Valuer-General provides fresh valuations for a municipal area every seven (7) year period. The valuation consists of the land value, capital value, and an assessed annual value (AAV). The Southern Midlands Council area was last re-valued effective from 1st July 2009. The rates payable on a property, excluding standard charges, are based on the assessed annual value of the property.

In the period between fresh valuations, the Valuer-General is also required to provide an adjustment factor every two years, which is applied to the Assessed Annual Value depending on the Class of the property (e.g. Primary Production, Residential, Commercial etc.)

Since the last fresh valuation, two adjustment factors have been provided. The first was effective from 1st July 2011, which resulted in an adjustment being made to the AAV of Residential classified properties only. The most recent adjustment factors, effective from 1st July 2013 (i.e. 2013/14 rating period) are as follows:

	Adjustment	Adjustment		
	Factor 2011	Factor 2013		
Residential (non- vacant)	1.05	1.05		
Residential (vacant)	1.00	1.00 to 1.15		
Commercial (vacant & nonvacant)	1.00	0.95		
Industrial (vacant & non-vacant)	1.00	0.95		
Primary Production (vacant & non-vacant)	1.00	1.15		
Community Services (vacant & non-vacant)	1.00	0.95		
Other (vacant & non-vacant)	1.00	0.95		

It can be seen that the Adjustment Factor for Primary Production is significantly higher than the other Classes. In order to reduce the impact of such a significant increase in Assessed Annual Value, Council has introduced differential rating. The purpose of this is to lessen the

percentage increase rates payable

### 2013/2014 RATES AND CHARGES RESOLUTION

The following rates and charges have been levied upon rateable land within the municipal area under the Local Government Act 1993 and the Fire Services Act 1979:

### **General Rates**

- (a) Under section 90 (3) (c) of the Local Government Act 1993 ("the Act") Council makes a general rate of 7.57918 cents in each dollar of Assessed Annual Value for all rateable land within the municipal area shown on the valuation list prepared under the Valuation of Land Act 2001 ("the valuation list"), subject to a minimum amount of \$275.00
- (b) Under sections 107 (1) (a) of the Act the Council also declares that the general rate is varied according to the use or predominant use of the land (as classified by the Valuer-General on the valuation list) and a rate of 7.01074 cents in each dollar of Assessed Annual Value applies for all rateable land classified as Primary Production, subject to a minimum amount of \$275.

### Waste Management Charge

- 2. Under section 94 (1) of the Act Council makes a separate services charge in respect of the service of waste management called the Waste Management Charge upon all rateable land, which is capable of use for residential purposes, and Council declares that the charge is to be calculated in accordance with the following formulae:
  - a) for rateable land upon which a dwelling or dwellings are constructed:

Waste Management Charge = \$114 x D, where D is the number of dwellings on the rateable land, capable of being occupied.

b) for rateable land upon which no dwelling is constructed:

Waste Management Charge = \$38.00

### Garbage Removal Charge

- 3. a) Under section 94 (1) of the Act Council makes a separate services charge of \$120.00 in respect of the service of waste management called the Garbage Removal Charge upon all rateable land.
  - b) Under section 107 (1) (c) and section 94 (3A) of the Act the Council declares that the Garbage Removal Charge is varied according to the locality of the land and the level of service provided as follows:
  - (i) for the land identified by Property Identification Number 7462339 the charge is \$2,520.00;

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- (ii) for land in the Broadmarsh/Elderslie areas to which Discount the Council provides a fortnightly garbage removal service (utilising wheelie bins) and kerbside recycling service, the charge is \$176.00.
- (iii) for land in the Tunbridge area to which the Council provides a fortnightly garbage removal service (utilising wheelie bins) and kerbside recycling service, the charge is \$176.00.
- (iv) for land to which the Council does not provide either a weekly garbage removal service and kerbside recycling service, or a fortnightly garbage removal service (utilising wheelie bins) and kerbside recycling service, the charge is zero.

### Fire Service Contributions

- 4. For the Council's contribution to the State Fire Commission:
  - for land within the Oatlands & Kempton Volunteer Brigade Rating District an amount of 0.3600 cents in the dollar on the assessed annual value of all rateable land subject to a minimum amount of \$36.00:
  - for all other land in the municipal area an amount of 0.28 cents in the dollar on the assessed annual value of the land subject to a minimum amount of \$36.00.

#### Instalments

5. These rates and charges are for the year commencing 1st July, 2013 and ending 30th June 2014 and are payable by 4 equal instalments, the first payable 30 days after the issue of the rates notices, the second by 4.30 p.m. on 29th November 2013, the third by 4.30 p.m. on 31st January 2014 and the fourth by 4.30 p.m. on 31st March 2013.

> Where a ratepayer elects to enter into an arrangement to pay the current rates and charges by monthly, fortnightly, or weekly instalments via one of the electronic payment options (including direct debit), then the instalment amounts will be calculated to settle the debt by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014. Penalty and interest will not be applied on any of the 2013-14 rates and charges at the relevant date, provided that the instalment arrangements are adhered to. In the event of default, penalty and interest is to be calculated on the outstanding amounts.

### Late Payments

6. Penalty: A penalty of 5% applies to any rate or charge that is not paid on or before the date it falls

> Interest: In addition to the penalty, interest under section 128 of the Local Government Act 1993 will be charged at the rate of 9.5% per annum.

7. A discount of 1.7% will apply to all rates and charges paid in full within 30 days after the date of issue. This discount is not applicable to rates and charges which are paid in instalments. The payment due date will appear on the rates notice.

### 2013 / 2014 BUDGET - CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM **HIGHLIGHTS**

HIGHLIGHTS								
Project	<b>Estimated Cost</b>							
	\$							
Unsealed Roads - Gravel Resheeting Program	600,000							
Sealed Roads – Resealing Program	350,000							
Road Reconstruction Projects:- Eldon / Rhyndaston Road Inglewood Road, Andover (plus c/fwd) Stonor Road, Stonor Woodsdale Road (Baden area) Williams Road (Construct & Seal approx 250m) Final seals – Ballyhooly Road, Cliftonvale Road, Green Valley Road and Stanley	68,750 37,500 137,500 30,000 40,000							
Junction Improvements: Woodsdale / Stonehenge Road Junction Broadmarsh – Church Road (Final Design) Nunns Road – junction with Elderslie Main Road	27,500 15,000 7,000							
Other Misc Road Works: Green Valley Road (Widening) Interlaken Road (Corner widening) Chauncy Vale Road (Widening) Yarlington Road (realignment – Survey etc)	83,000 32,000 20,000 20,000							
Footpaths: General footpath Improvement Program Reeve Street, Campania Colebrook Main Road (Colebrook)	50,000 80,000 15,000							
Bridge Projects: Brown Mountain Road (Coal River) Daniels Road (Mrashalls Creek) Lyalls Road (Burns Creek) Rotherwood Road (Jordan River) Swanston Road (subject to design) Kheme Road (Birralee Creek)	557,000 26,500 166,000 57,000 678,000 142,500							
Stormwater/Drainage Projects: Swan Street, Bagdad Yarlington Road/Colebrook Main Road Wellington Street Tunbridge – Main Road (2 Locations)	155,500 12,000 12,000 26,000							
Recreation Projects: Playspace Strategy – Alexander Circle & Le Compte Place Public Open Space Various Projects	15,000 57,000							

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### Community Men's Shed @ Oatlands

The crew from the Community Men's Shed Oatlands, ably led by Volunteer Shed Co-ordinator Graeme Ford, has just completed an order for a total of eight large outdoor table and chair settings – six of which have been purchased by the Southern Midlands Council, and the remaining two have been sold to private buyers.



A Workskills team headed by Supervisor Geoff Jackson ably assisted finalising the construction process, and were on hand to share a BBQ lunch at the Shed with all involved at the 'handover' of the settings to the Council recently – which was kindly promoted and supplied by Darren Thurlow from Rural Alive and Well.

The table and chair settings will be placed at several areas around the municipality and are a welcome addition to the comfort of residents at the various sites.

A big thank you to the Shedders who worked on the construction of the settings, and Workskills and Rural Alive and Well on their assistance with completing this very worthwhile project.

Anyone interested in attending the Shed – whether it be for the odd chat and a cuppa, or to make that long dreamt of project come to life,

Please phone Graeme on 62 547314 or Greg Hunt on 62 593011 or call into the Shed at Glenelg St Oatlands any Tuesday, Wednesday or Friday between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm.

Men and Women are welcome!

Greg Hunt – Secretary Shed Management Committee

# Thinking of Building a new Shed, Carport, Garage or Farm Shed?

Part of the process under the Building Act 2000 is the requirement to apply to Council for Building and Plumbing Permits. The other component in the building approval process is for the property owner to have a Building Surveyor prepare a Certificate of Likely Compliance from the final design plans, which is then submitted to Council in support of the Building and Plumbing Permit application.

Up until 2010 Council did provide Building Surveyor services, which included the issuing of Certificates of Likely Compliance, but Council resolved not to continue this practice based on diminishing demand for the service.

It has been noted recently that there is a growing parallel between the cost of Sheds, Carports, Garages or Farm Sheds and the amount of fees required for Building Surveying services for Certificates of Likely Compliance for these types of structures. In an effort to support our Community in providing a cost effective, fee-for-service, Council has re-instigated Building Surveying Services for these types of structures only.

Please contact Council's Richard Rigney (Tuesday or Thursday) at Development & Environmental Services business unit, Kempton for a quotation or further information phone 62593011, or smc@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au

# Southern Midlands Community Small Grants Program

Council's Community Small Grants program has been established to support projects, programs and activities developed for the benefit of residents of the Southern Midlands municipal area. Council recognises the immense community benefit provided to our residents and visitors by local community organisations through the provision of grants to assist them provide programs, improve safety, undertake minor capital works and purchase equipment.

This annual program opened on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2013 and closes at 4.30pm on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2013. This round of grants will focus on projects commencing from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2013, with acquittal required by the 25<sup>th</sup> July 2014.

Projects which aim to increase community participation and access to information, services and facilities while strengthening community and social well being will be favourably received.

An organisation can apply for assistance up to a maximum of \$3,000 per round, and no minimum applies.

Grant Application Guidelines and Application Forms are available from Monday 29<sup>th</sup> July on www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au or at our Oatlands and Kempton offices.

All enquiries should be directed to Greg Hunt at Council's Kempton office on 62 593011 or smc@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au

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# BushLinks500 - Preserving, restoring and re-connecting the bush

Southern Midlands Council is managing a project called *BushLinks500* the aim of which is to address issues that are causing loss of native vegetation such as tree dieback and weed invasion.

The main aim of *BushLinks500* is to work in association with farmers to restore the health of native vegetation and to re-establish connections between patches where vegetation loss is evident. *BushLinks500* will:

- Protect and enhance existing native vegetation on private land through fencing, weed control, grazing management and some replanting - target 400 hectares.
- Re-connect the bush by planting a mix of native trees and shrubs, together with direct seeding of native grasses – target 100 hectares.

# Anticipated on-farm benefits of BushLinks500

- Protection of native vegetation remnants through bolstering of patch size and reconnection of small remnants.
- Arrest of threats to farm bush (including dieback and invasive weeds).
- Rejuvenation of 'annual' pastures by direct drilling of native perennial grass species in combination with a specified grazing regime. This management approach is designed to sustain cover of nutritious, palatable and hardy grasses, even through extended dry spells.



Most sites for Project site works have been identified and works are progressing, however, we may be seeking additional sites for project work later in 2013.

Sites for *BushLinks500* project works are confirmed by detailed modelling using a 'Regional Ecosystem Model' which identifies locations where combinations of important environmental factors align, and also

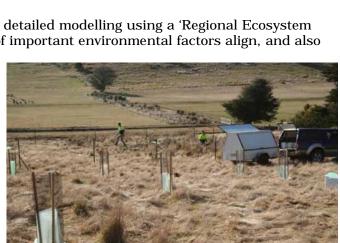
where 'landcare' works are likely to result in the greatest benefit for the funds invested.

If you feel you have a site that fits the objectives of BushLinks500 and you wish to seek more information, contact: Graham Green or Maria Weeding (Southern Midlands Council) on 6254 5048 or

ggreen@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au

mweeding@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au **or visit** www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au

Funds for *BushLinks500* were obtained by Southern Midlands Council and Project partners from the Australian Government's Clean Energy Future Biodiversity Fund Program in June 2012



### **DOG REGISTRATION DUE NOW FOR 2013/2014**



Dogs over the age of 6 months must be registered each financial year.

Registration Fee paid after the 31 July 2013 are \$40.00

Application for Dog Registrations are available on our web site www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au or phone 6254 5000 for further information





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# ONE BIG DAY OF BUYING, SELLING & OLD SCHOOL SOCIAL NETWORKING!

Whether you're looking for some retro bargains, want to de-clutter, or just to get to know the neighbours, Garage Sale Trail is for you.

Four years after starting locally in Bondi Beach, Garage Sale Trail is now a national Australian event. Garage Sale Trail organises communities around Australia to hold garage sales on the same day, this year Saturday October 26th.

We're into sustainability, by redistributing great stuff and saving it from landfill.

We're into community, by making a great occasion for you to connect with people in your neighbourhood.

We're into you making some money from stuff you would otherwise have thrown away, for you or your favourite charity.

So far Garage Sale has redistributed one million items from potential landfill, helped raise \$3 million in local fundraising, and helped 800,000 people to meet their neighbours in Australia.



garagesaletrail.com.au





The next meeting of the Coal Valley Neighbourhood Watch will be held August 15th 7.00 PM

What: Annual General Meeting
Where: Campania War Memorial Hall,
Reeve Street, Campania

Come and have your say about issues such

safety, vandalism or theft that affect us. Southern Midlands Council and Tas Police representatives are usually in attendance to provide immediate feedback on these and any other issues of importance to you.

All residents of the greater Coal River Valley area are welcome.

Chris Adams, Co-ordinator 0408 335585



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# **Council Meetings 2013**

#### Date Venue

28<sup>th</sup> August 2013 85 Main Street Kempton 25<sup>th</sup> September 2013 71 High Street Oatlands 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2013 84 Main Street Kempton

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









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 03 6254 5008 Works Dept.

Development & Environmental

03 6259 3011 Services Office 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 03 6259 3011 Development

### **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

 $03^{\circ} 6268 6365$ 

After Hours Emergency Service 0419 325 405

### **Elected Members:**

Mayor Tony Bisdee O.A.M.

6259 1128 Ph: Fax: 6259 1418 Mobile: 0418 355158

Email:tonybisdee@bigpond.au Deputy Mayor

Mark Jones O.A.M. Ph: 6254 0074 Fax: 6254 0074

Mobile: 0408 298 347

Clr Tony Bantick Ph: 62686277 Fax 62681211

Mobile 0419 340157

Email tony@4one4.com.au

Clr Colin Beven

Ph: 6260 4157 Fax: 6260 4167

Clr Bob Campbell

Ph: 6255 5232 Fax: 6255 5232 Mobile: 0404 260026

Clr Marie Connors

Ph: 6259 3095

Fax:

Mobile: 0438 686665 Email:lamenlazy@netbay.comau

Clr Don Fish

Ph: 6255 5157 Fax: 6255 5257

Clr Alex Green

Ph: 6260 4153 Fax 6260 4036 Mobile: 0429 604153

Email:aogreen@bigpond.com

Clr John Jones O.A.M. Ph: 62591223 Fax 6259 1223 Mobile: 0418 121163

Email:jones.ent1@bigpond.com

# 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	