



Newsletter

Issue 3 | August 2020



MAYORS REPORT

Southern Midlands Council is committed to supporting our community through this difficult time. COVID-19 has been very challenging for everyone and we are conscious of the affect it's having on our community.

We have committed to supporting our community through this difficult time with a 0% general rate increase. At the same time we recognise the importance of supporting our local economy and jobs.

Over the last several years Council has been very disciplined and focused to ensure we are delivering budgets within our means. Council maintains a strong cash and low-debt position to be able to deal with situations such as COVID-19. To deal with the pandemic, and assist our community in recovery, Council has adopted a range of measures, including a hardship rate relief initiative and an increase in the fund pool available for the Community Small Grants Program.

Against an estimated operating revenue of \$11.088 million we have budgeted operating expenditure of \$11.476 million. Some \$6.645 million is provided for capital expenditure, a significant investment in infrastructure for the Southern Midlands. Some of the grant funding, includes:

\$148K	Midland Highway/Mood Food pedestrian footpath, Kempton
\$230K	Streetscape project, Broadmarsh
\$100K	Bush Reserve walking track, Campania
\$500K	Destination Playground, Oatlands
\$220K	Lake Dulverton walkway, Oatlands
\$ 88K	New seal Native Corners Road, Campania
\$ 77K	New seal through Rhyndaston
\$144K	1500m completion of sealing of Eldon Road, Eldon
\$ 35K	Runnymede Cricket Ground

Your Council has strongly supported Commonwealth Government initiatives in response to COVID-19 such as the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program which has funded much of the new seal projects listed above.

In further positive developments for our community, your Council as Planning Authority has recently assessed and

approved a revised plan for the Oatlands Aquatic Centre. It is intended to go to public tender for this important project in mid-August.

We have received a great deal of public support for the new pool, and I share the communities excitement now it is closer to commencement.

With the COVID-19 crisis far from over, I encourage us all to continue observing social distancing and hygiene principles. Together we can emerge from this challenging time a stronger community.

Clr Alex Green
MAYOR

Oatlands Structure Plan – Public Consultation

Council are pleased to announce that community consultation will commence in August 2020 on the development of a structure plan for the township of Oatlands.

The Oatlands Structure Plan is a project to actively engage with the community to prepare a clear, concise and specific plan for future development and land use in Oatlands. There are number of exciting developments either underway or planned for Oatlands which will result in greater visitor numbers, more business and economic activity in the township. It is therefore important that Council & the community work together to look towards the future and prepare for growth. Some of these developments include the grant funding for the aquatic centre, the development of a large distillery next to the Callington Mill, the upgrading of walking tracks around the lake, and the “destination playground” in the Callington Park.

A Structure Plan will seek to address current and potential future issues such as parking and traffic management in the town (including a parking plan), way finding, linkages between key areas, improved amenities & facilities and making the most of the town's assets.

Council have engaged JMG Planning Consultants to prepare the plan with Council's planning department and will be holding multiple community consultation sessions in August 2020 as part of the first stage of the plan. There will be a second round of consultation once a draft is completed. This will likely be in October/November 2020. Further details on dates, times and locations will be provided on Council's website, Facebook page and through the Council Offices. **Everyone is invited to participate.**

Council look forward to growing the town together in a structured and logical way that will meet the current and future needs of the town.

Pedestrian Bridges for Chauncy Vale

In an exciting new development for Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary, two new pedestrian bridges are to be installed in the coming months. The bridges, over Browns Caves Rivulet, will enable the popular Caves Loop walk to be an all-weather, all seasons walk. Currently, even at low water flows, the rivulet can be tricky to cross and quite hazardous. During moderate to high flows many popular walking destinations within the reserve are cut off, limiting recreational opportunities for walkers.

This project is part of the Chauncy Vale Management Committee's commitment to gradual improvement of infrastructure and visitor experiences at Chauncy Vale.

Walking track upgrades and improvements are planned in conjunction with the new bridges with the view to making the Caves Loop Walk more appealing, accessible, and enabling more people to enjoy and appreciate the natural and cultural heritage attractions of the reserve.

The vision with these upgrades is to create a high quality walking experience for the benefit of the local community and also to attract visitors to the region. The bridge project is co-funded by Southern Midlands Council and the Australian Government's Communities Development Program.

More information about Chauncy Vale is available at www.chauncyvale.com



Popular spot –
Eve's Bath at Chauncy Vale



ST JOHNS WORT CONTROL 2020

THANKS FOR YOUR REPORTS!

Your eyes on the ground are helping us reduce priority weeds in the Southern Midlands. This St Johns wort roadside infestation on Memorial Avenue, Kempton, will now be included in our roadside weed control program. Thanks to the Kempton resident who reported this weed.



2020-2029 Strategic Plan

The *Local Government Act 1993* requires all Councils to have a Strategic Plan for the Municipal area; Council has recently conducted a review of its Strategic Plan and adopted the Plan on the 24th June 2020 for the 2020-2029 period.

A copy of the Strategic Plan can be found on Council's website at:

www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au/annual-reports-strategic-plan/

SOUTHERN MIDLANDS COUNCIL COMMUNITY SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM 2020

The Community is advised that Council's Community Small Grants Program 2020 opened on Monday, 27th July 2020 and will close at 4.00 pm on Monday, 24th August 2020.

[STOP PRESS the maximum Grant amount has been increased from \$3,000 to \$5,000 for this 2020 round of the Grants Program.]

The Community Small Grants program recognises the important role our community groups and sporting clubs play in connecting people and positively shaping our region. The program has been established to support projects that benefit the residents of the Southern Midlands.

Grant application forms and guidelines are available from Council's website www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au or hard copies can be obtained by calling into the Council's Oatlands (71 High Street) or Kempton (85 Main Street) offices during business hours.



For further information please contact Andrew Benson on 6254 5050 or via email. abenson@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au

Southern Midlands Youth School Holiday Program

Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 social distancing limitations the usual Southern Midlands Youth School Holiday Program was unable to go ahead in the April or July holiday periods. A new social media project "YAY Team" was launched on Facebook in April to provide local teenagers and families with young children a safe "place to go" to find age-appropriate holiday craft activity suggestions and links to external pages providing live-streamed children's entertainment. We also worked closely with service provider "Family Food Patch" to supply take-home activity kits to each family enrolled at our 4 local schools.

During the recent July holidays we teamed up with the crew at Oatlands Rural Youth to facilitate a "Youth Photography Comp" for 12 –16 year old residents. We had a fabulous response to the activity with 19 entrants submitting some 50 brilliant photos under the theme "Nature".

Rural Youth invited photographer Denise Smith of Oatlands to judge the photos, selecting winning shots and her "favourites" from each age year. Each winning entrant received a \$25 voucher of their choice from either Village Cinemas, Zone 3, Barilla Putt & Play, Woody's Skate & Play or Zone Bowling Moonah. Winners in the 15 & 16 year age years also received a 1 year membership to the Oatlands Rural Youth group, valued at \$120 each.

It is hoped that sometime in the future an exhibition can be held so that the broader community can go and enjoy the photos and appreciate the talents of our younger community members! In the meantime, all photos can be viewed on Council's website by following the Our Community and Young Community Members tabs.

For more information on Youth activities in the Southern Midlands please contact Kelly: kwoodward@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au

PERFORMANCE ART IN THE SOUTHERN MIDLANDS WE'D LIKE YOUR INPUT!



Members of Council's Arts Advisory Committee are seeking feedback from community members who are interested in contributing to the **Dramatic and Performance Arts** activities in our region.

If you are an active member of a performance troupe, would like to start such a group, or, have suggestions on how we may entice performances to the Southern Midlands please contact Kelly Woodward at: kwoodward@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au

Oatlands Bargain Centre

Council wishes to acknowledge and thank all volunteers associated with the Oatlands Bargain Centre, recognising their combined contribution of 2,039 voluntary hours which has raised a total of \$20,762.99 over the past year for distribution to various community organisations.

thank you 😊

SOUTHERN MIDLANDS ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE SEEKING EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR MEMBERSHIP

Council's Arts Advisory Committee are a group of like-minded individuals who work or live in the Southern Midlands with a common interest in promoting the Arts in our region. The committee meets quarterly and is committed to supporting the activities of local Arts and Performance groups.

The committee also provides assistance to local events and festival organisers, including working with Tasmanian and Australian Event coordinators to help bring their activities to the Southern Midlands. Such events include the Heritage & Bullock festival, ARTlands, Dark Mofo, Ten Days on the Island and the Festival of Small Halls.

The committee is guided by Council's Arts Strategy which can be found on the Southern Midlands Council website:

<https://www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au/arts-and-cultural-development/>

Due to the recent resignation of valued long-term members, the committee is seeking expressions of interest from community members who believe they can positively contribute to the undertakings of the Arts Advisory Committee, with a focus of enhancing Arts activities in our region.

For more information please contact Kelly: kwoodward@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au

Local Government Association of Tasmania Life Member Award – Clr Tony Bisdee OAM

Congratulations to Clr Tony Bisdee OAM on recently being awarded Life Membership of LGAT.

Clr Bisdee was presented with his award by LGAT President, Mayor Christina Holmdahl, at an awards presentation ceremony on the 20th July 2020 at the Hobart Town Hall.

Clr Bisdee's involvement in local government spans almost 40 years commencing with his election to the former Green Ponds Council in 1972. He has served as Councillor or Mayor continuously in both the former Green Ponds Council and the amalgamated Council of Southern Midlands since that time.



At the Awards Ceremony Mayor Christina Holmdahl said, "These two recipients have extensive and successful careers in Local Government. Both have demonstrated ongoing commitment and

service to our sector and the Local Government Association and I am honoured to present them both the Award for Life Membership".

On behalf of elected members, Council staff and the wider Southern Midlands community, Congratulations to Clr Bisdee.

Photo L-R: Dr Katrena Stephenson CEO LGAT, Councillor Tony Bisdee OAM, Mr Nick Heath, General Manager Hobart City Council, Mayor Christina Holmdahl President LGAT.

2020/2021 BUDGET / RATES & CHARGES

A copy of Council's 2020/21 Budget (Operating & Capital) can be found at: www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au/annual-plan-budgets/

A copy of Council's 2020/21 Rates & Charges Resolution can be found at: www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au/rates/

Support for Farmers in the Southern Midlands to Combat Weeds During and After Drought

Drought in recent years has affected the municipalities of Southern Midlands, Break O'Day, Glamorgan Spring Bay, Sorell and Tasman. As part of the Tasmanian Government's Weed Action Fund *Drought and Weed Management Program* farmers in these areas have access to financial support to manage weed issues related to drought. Southern Midlands Council will be facilitating a small grant program to assist farmers to undertake targeted weed management of species favoured by drought and post drought conditions that impact on agricultural production.

Further details regarding eligibility and how to apply will be announced on the Southern Midlands Council website towards the end of August.



Registering your dog

Dog owners are required by law to register their dog each financial year. All dogs must be microchipped (with the exception of working dogs).

Once a dog is six months old it must be registered.

The registration period is between 1 July and 30 June each year. **If you haven't registered your dog, please register them now.**

Failure to pay the registration fee means that your dog is not registered and you will be issued an infringement notice, it is your responsibility to renew your dog's registration.

Dog Registration forms can be downloaded from Councils website www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au or available from the Oatlands or Kempton office.

Financial Hardship Assistance Policy

Council adopted a 'Financial Hardship Assistance Policy' in April 2020.

A copy can be found at

<https://www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au/council-policies/>

or a copy can be obtained from the Kempton or Oatlands offices.

2020 Council Meeting Schedule

DATE	VENUE	TIME
Wednesday, 26 th August 2020	Victoria Memorial Hall 89 Main Street, KEMPTON	10.00 a.m. <i>Public Question Time 10.30 a.m</i>
Wednesday, 23 rd September 2020	Oatlands Ex-Services & Community Club, 1 Albert Street, OATLANDS	10.00 a.m. <i>Public Question Time 10.30 a.m</i>
Wednesday, 28 th October 2020	Victoria Memorial Hall 89 Main Street, KEMPTON	10.00 a.m. <i>Public Question Time 10.30 a.m</i>
Wednesday, 25 th November 2020	Oatlands Ex-Services & Community Club, 1 Albert Street, OATLANDS	10.00 a.m. <i>Public Question Time 10.30 a.m</i>
Wednesday, 9 th December 2020	Oatlands Ex-Services & Community Club, 1 Albert Street, OATLANDS	2.00 p.m. <i>Public Question Time 2.30 p.m</i>
Followed by the Annual General Meeting		5.00 p.m.

Dogs at Large and Livestock

Council would like to remind all dog owners of their responsibilities with regards to containing their dogs on their property at all times, unless under the effective control of a responsible person. The owner of a dog found "at large" could be liable for an infringement value under the *Dog Control Act 2000*. Dogs wandering at large are a risk to pedestrians, vehicles, stock and other animals.



This is a timely reminder as we enter lambing season in the Southern Midlands.

Dogs are instinctively predatory pack animals and straying dogs will regularly gather other 'pack members' when wandering at large. This

formation of a pack increases their strength and ability to effectively attack stock. Any dog breed is vulnerable and capable of attack in this situation.

A dog wandering "at large" in rural areas can have devastating consequences. An attack can lead to heavy fines, the declaration of the dog as "dangerous" or even destruction of the dog. The *Dog Control Act 2000* states that: *S41. (3) A person carrying on primary production relating to livestock on rural land or any other person acting under his or her authority may destroy any dog at large found on that land.*

Any dogs attacking a person or animal, (this includes biting, menacing or harassing), may be seized and destroyed by an authorised person.

So please keep your dog contained on your property and make sure your dog is microchipped and registered and has an identifiable collar tag.

Please contact Council's Animal Management Officer on 6254 5050 or email rcollis@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au for further information.

COVID-19
Information

Southern Midlands Council oversees the operations of

a number of buildings predominantly managed by volunteers and used by local residents for a range of programs, events and community activities.

Council has developed COVID-19 safety plans and registers, which have been distributed to Council owned buildings as well as community halls to assist the custodians to be compliant with State Government COVID-19 requirements and to assist the Government to reduce the spread of the Coronavirus.

Council will continue to monitor the directions provided by Public Health to manage the threat to public health posed by the spread of COVID-19 and will continue to support our Management Committee as the situation changes. If anyone is wanting further information or have a concern they should contact Council's Corporate Compliance Officer Wendy Young 62 545 061 or email wyoung@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au

CAPITAL BUDGET PROJECTS – 2020/2021

Council has allocated a total of \$6,645,186 million in Capital Works for the 2020/21 financial year. Some of this funding is financed through grants from both Federal and State Governments. This amount does not include projects which have been delayed and carried forward from the previous financial year.

ROADS PROGRAM	
Gravel Roads – resheeting program	\$ 500,000
Sealed Roads – resealing program	\$ 400,000
Road Reconstruction Projects:	
Woodsdale Road, Woodsdale (1km reconstruction)	\$ 330,000
Construct & Seal (unsealed Roads):	
Huntington Tier Road, Bagdad (350m)	\$ 73,500
Native Corners Road, Campania (900m)	\$ 173,250
Ballyhooly Road, Mangalore (300m)	\$ 57,750
Rhyndaston township (800m)	\$ 154,000
Eldon Road, Tunnack (1.5km)	\$ 288,750
Minor Seals (new):	
Dust Suppressant	\$ 100,000
Junctions / Road Realignment / Other	
Reeve Street/Climie Street junction, Campania (includes footpath)	\$60,496
Campania Main intersection/carpark (design concept)	\$50,000
Cliftonvale Road & Sugarloaf Road, Dysart (junction improvements)	\$ 50,000
Bluff Road, Elderslie (junction improvements/bus shelter)	\$ 150,000
Elderslie Road, Elderslie (widening)	\$40,000
Elderslie Road, Elderslie (250m safety railing)	\$ 21,250
Roberts Road, Mangalore (additional culverts)	\$ 12,000
Interlaken Road, Oatlands (preliminary realignment work)	\$ 25,000
Grices Road, Tea Tree (drainage improvements)	\$ 15,000
Woodsdale Road 'The Cutting' (2 sections x 200m safety rail)	\$ 17,000
Bridges	
Woodsdale Road (Nutting Garden Rivulet)	\$ 148,200
ANIMALS	
Dog Pound	\$ 35,000

NOTE: For a full listing of the 2020/21 Capital Expenditure Program Budget & Projects please go to:

www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au/annual-plan-budgets/



WALKWAYS / STREETSCAPE	
Footpaths (General)	\$ 170,906
East Bagdad Road footpath	\$ 186,625
Broadmarsh township Streetscape Works (Federal Government grant funds)	\$ 230,000
Louisa Street, Kempton	\$ 38,000
Midland Hwy, Kempton (footpath to Mood Food)	\$ 147,565
Kempton township Streetscape Works	\$ 23,000
Victoria Memorial Hall, Kempton (streetscape works completion)	\$ 75,000
Melton Mowbray township Streetscape Works	\$ 30,000
Oatlands township (footpath renewal)	\$ 40,000
Tunbridge township (kerb & gutter renewal)	\$ 20,000
Tunnack township Streetscape Concept Plan	\$ 45,000
HERITAGE	
Heritage Collections Store	\$ 10,000
Kempton Clock Tower restoration work	\$ 20,000
RECREATION / COMMUNITY	
Water Bottle refilling stations	\$ 7,980
Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary, Bagdad (Caves Loop Track Completion)	\$ 21,000
Lake Dulverton Walkway upgrade (Federal Government grant funds)	\$ 220,000
Campania Recreation Ground (internal toilet improvements)	\$ 40,000
Colebrook Hall heating upgrade	\$ 24,000
Runnymede Recreation Ground (resurfacing and watering system)	\$ 25,000
Mangalore Hall (replace gutters & roof)	\$ 18,000
Mt Pleasant Recreation Ground (upgrade toilets & stabilisation)	\$ 48,000
Midlands Memorial Community Centre (install double glazed windows)	\$ 40,000
Esplanade, Oatlands Underground Lighting (Federal Government grant funds)	\$ 250,000
Callington Park Playground + revegetation & watering system (Federal Government grant funds)	\$ 500,000
Kempton Community Health Facility	\$175,000
Public Toilets upgrade program	\$ 20,000
Sth Midlands Road Accident Rescue Unit	\$3,000
Levendale Community Centre upgrade works	\$ 30,390

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 rateable 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

Service Tasmania 71 High Street, Oatlands

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

Phone 1300 13 55 13

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 - 5.00pm

Saturday 1.00 pm - 5.00pm

Sunday 1.00 pm - 5.00pm

COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

To place items on the Community Notice Board,
contact IT Officer Nick Wilson or email
webmaster@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au

COUNCILLORS

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

Mayor Alex Green	0429 604 153	agreen@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au
Deputy Mayor Edwin Batt	0400 009 471	ebatt@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au
Clr Tony Bantick	0419 340 157	abantick@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au
Clr Tony Bisdee OAM	0418 355 158	abisdee@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au
Clr Karen Dudgeon	0428 361 807	kdudgeon@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au
Clr Don Fish	6255 5157	mail@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au
Clr Rowena McDougall	0466 816 882	rmcdougall@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au

AFTER HOURS

Council emergencies
please phone

0419 325 405

For all after hours
**Water & Sewerage TasWater
emergencies**
please phone **136 992**

For all after hours
**Tasmanian Gas Pipeline
emergencies**
please phone **1800 195 666**

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**