



Mayors Report



Recently a public meeting was held in Oatlands in relation to the management and operation of the Midlands Multi-Purpose Health Centre and the Oatlands Ambulance Service. Over 700 people attended the meeting, which was the highest ever for a public meeting held in the Southern Midlands - a measure of the importance placed on this issue by the community.

The Minister for Health, the Hon Michael Fergusson MP, was in attendance to address concerns that the large gathering had with both the health centre and the ambulance service.

I wish to thank all those who attended for helping to demonstrate to the Minister and the State Government that we are not prepared to see our Hospital and Ambulance Service downgraded in any way and that a high standard of health service needs to continue for the Southern Midlands municipal area and the broader central midlands region. I also thank the attendees for their direct and informed questions to the Minister and for the



firm yet respectful way in which our concerns were relayed to him. The meeting was a very clear demonstration of the community's concerns, passion and determination to see the standard of our Health Centre and Ambulance Service retained and, where possible, improved.

Since that eventful meeting, State Health Department officials have made multiple visits to the hospital and some changes to management are now being considered and trialled, particularly in the area of nurses being "on call" when they are off duty. I take the opportunity to thank the wonderful nursing staff for

assisting the Department in resolving the issue of rostering "on-call" nurses to attend with the ambulance when called out.

I wish to thank the Minister, who has taken the community concerns back to his Departmental staff, for his determination to see these issues resolved. The Minister attended the December meeting of the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) and outlined a way forward with his Department officers to address these concerns. The Minister has advised that he will return to a public meeting at Oatlands, anticipated to be held in February 2015, to report on his Department's progress.

On Saturday 13 December the chairman and representatives of Tasmanian Irrigation invited members of the community and Midlands Irrigation Scheme irrigators to an open day at the new Power Generation Site at Tunbridge.

A large crowd was in attendance and were taken on a tour of the facility. It was magnificent to see the water being used to generate electricity before going on to farm land for irrigation. The facility has the capacity to generate enough electricity to supply 10,000 domestic homes and provides an important financial input into the operation of the whole Midlands Irrigation Scheme.



I congratulate the Chairman and staff of Tasmania Irrigation for providing this opportunity for the community to visit and experience this most visionary and beneficial project in the Southern Midlands.

Southern Midlands Council has recently completed a significant infrastructure project - the replacement of the Brown Mountain Road Bridge near Campania. This council bridge carries large traffic volumes to and from the Campania Waste Transfer Station and large tonnages of agricultural produce from that area.

Council has an extensive program of local road re-sheetting, reconstruction and resealing planned for the first two quarters of 2015 including the realignment of the Church Road junction on to Elderslie Road at Broadmarsh. This is a large project which includes a safe pull-off lane for the school bus at that junction. Council were successful in an application for "Black Spot" funding of \$100,000 from the Federal Government's "Safer Roads" program to assist in this project. Preliminary work has been started and will be completed before winter.

Work has recently begun on the upgrading of the Midlands Highway at Kempton, Spring Hill and Tunbridge. It is extremely pleasing to see the Federal & State Governments commencing these long awaited improvements aimed at increasing safety. The highway will be widened in many places and a number of road junctions, will be upgraded and made safer. A wire rope barrier will be installed along some stretches of the highway to separate north and south bound traffic. These barriers, while not universally accepted, are a positive measure to stop traffic crossing into an on-coming lane. There will no doubt be delays during the construction work, however this temporary inconvenience will be for a good cause as the end result will be a safer Midland Highway.

Again this summer period I wish to remind and encourage property owners to take measures to reduce the fire risk on their properties. Our volunteer rural fire brigades do an outstanding job in fighting bush and grass fires and your assistance in managing your properties for risk will very much assist the fire service and our volunteers should a fire occur.

I feel fortunate to have attended the various school presentation nights in the municipality recently. I have been very impressed with our schools and the wonderful job they are doing. To see so many fine young members of our community progressing and developing gives me great hope for our future.

Finally I would like to make special mention of Richard Lang who recently received recognition for 45 years of service to the local Kempton volunteer fire brigade. (*refer to the separate article in this newsletter for details*) Congratulations and a heartfelt thank you to Richard for his long and dedicated service to the community, fulfilling this most important role.

On behalf of Sue and myself, my fellow Councillors and Staff of the Southern Midlands Council, I would like to take this oppor-

tunity to wish everyone a very happy and safe Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Clr Tony Bisdee O.A.M.
Mayor



Oatlands Swimming Pool

Opening Hours

Mon – Friday (during school term) 2.00 pm – 6.00 pm
School Holiday, Weekends & Public Holidays 11.00 am – 6.00 pm

Admission charges and hire fees for the 2012/2013 season are as follows:

Daily Tickets:	Season Ticket	Complex Hire Fee
Adult \$ 5.00	Family \$ 110.00	All supervised
Children \$ 4.00	Adult \$ 52.00	\$45.00 per hour
Family \$11.50	Child \$ 40.00	(out of Hours)

Note: Out of hours bookings must be supervised by Councils supervisor at all times.

Application is to be made seven days in advance to Council phone 03 62545000

Students are required to have a current student identification card.



Look out for Serrated tussock!

It is important that landholders remain on the look out for Serrated tussock because it has the potential to spread widely and impact on productivity. Fortunately, there is only one known infestation of serrated tussock in the Southern Midlands and this is being effectively managed. There is however a chance that other infestations may be present that have not been identified at this stage.

Key identifying features for serrated tussock include:

- ◆ Serrated tussock looks very similar to common native tussock (*Poa labillardierei*)
- ◆ Thin, tightly rolled, hairless leaves with very fine serrations
- ◆ White, swollen leaf bases – **if there is any colour (pink, purple etc) at the base of the leaves it's not serrated tussock**
- ◆ Purple tinge to the flower heads, later turning golden as the seeds ripen
- ◆ Weeping flower heads that break off at maturity
- ◆ Difficult to pull from the ground, even when small – leaves strongly attached to roots
- ◆ Leaves roll smoothly like a needle when rolled between index finger and thumb. Most native grasses will feel like they have flat edges

Fast facts:

- ◆ In Argentina, they call it *paja voladora*, or “flying straw” – it's quite flighty, and can spread up to 20km by wind – that's 219 times further than the longest chicken flight ever recorded
- ◆ One hectare of serrated tussock can produce two tonnes of seeds annually – that's about 500 million seeds!
- ◆ **Being unpalatable to stock, it can reduce pasture productivity by up to 95%.**



If you have any questions or find a grass that looks suspicious because it doesn't 'look right' or it just seems out of place then please contact Helen Geard 6254 5046 (Monday and Tuesday) or 0417 599 816 for further information.



Swimming Pool Fencing

Pool fencing is designed to save children's lives by preventing their access to pools. However, it is alarming to see that the majority of children under five years of age who drown in swimming pools, do so as a result of fencing that is not compliant with the legislation. In other words, pool fencing that is not working or not being used as designed is contributing to the number of children drowning.

A four sided fence, that does not include any part of the home, has proven to be the safest.

You must, by law, have a four sided fence around ANY pool that can be filled with more than 300mm of water. This includes inflatable and portable swimming pools.

The maintenance of pool fencing is extremely important, even if you do not have young children living at your home. Children are most at risk of drowning within 6 months of moving into a new property with a swimming pool, or when visiting the home of a friend, family or neighbor with a pool.

Pool fencing is a legal requirement and pool owners should regularly check their swimming pool throughout the year, especially in the months leading up to summer.

The Royal Life Saving Society has a Home Pool Safety targeting anyone who has a backyard pool. It provides sound advice in the form of a checklist that alerts pool owners to potential dangers that they may not be aware of.

If you would like more information, visit the website www.homepoolsafety.com.au and download your copy of the Home Pool Safety Checklist – it could save a life!

TREE RENEWAL AT CAMPANIA RECREATION GROUND

The poplar trees along the Southern Boundary of the Campania Recreation Ground were removed by Council in October 2014. This followed an assessment and recommendations from an arborist that concluded the trees were approaching the end of their life due to age and fire damage. Indeed, most trees had burnt out hollows at their base and one was only standing upright because it was leaning on its neighbour. The arborist report recommended that several of the trees be removed without delay because they posed an immediate danger, and many of the remaining trees would be in a similar state within two to five years.

Council decided that it would be best to remove all the trees now, especially as the neighbouring land will soon be developed for housing and removal of trees in the future would become increasingly difficult and expensive as a result. Furthermore, it was considered that the removal of all trees would enable the planting of replacement trees at the one time, thereby providing for an even-aged replacement row.

In the coming winter Council will undertake the replacement planting near the top of the bank, (rather than at the bottom). A deciduous tree species is proposed, although not poplars.



Typical tree, burnt-out base.



The old poplars. Note one tree leaning on the other.

PROPOSED REMOVAL OF THREE RADIATA PINE TREES

The Lake Dulverton and Callington Park Management Committee and Council are considering removal of three pine trees growing very close to the water edge at Lake Dulverton. They are between the Stop Over camping area and the toilet block opposite Callington Mill. The trees are Pinus radiata trees which are traditionally used in plantations.

The proposal is to remove the trees and replant the bank with mainly native plants and bushes that will compliment other plantings in the area. The plant species would be selected to assist in providing habitat for wildlife whilst also maintaining the bank to avoid ongoing maintenance issues. The estimated cost for the work is in the order of \$3000. It should be noted that the larger deciduous trees to the

side of the three pine trees are not proposed to be removed. If you have any concerns or conversely would

like to voice your support for this proposal, then please write to or email Council, marked attention to

The General Manager PO Box 21 Oatlands Tas 7120 Written comment will be received up until Monday 2nd February 2015.

View of the three pine-trees in question. Note the native plants on the prior bank to the fore-shore bank where the trees are located.



Emergency Service Recognition

Congratulations Richard Lang (Kempton Fire Brigade)

The Tasmania Fire Service has recognised Richard Lang for his 45 years' service with the Kempton Fire Brigade.

The TFS District Officer, Mr Gearld Crawford recently presented Richie with the 45 year National Medal Clasp. The purpose of this Medal is to recognise long and diligent service by members of recognised government and voluntary organisations that risk their lives or safety to protect or assist the community in enforcement of the law or in times of emergency or natural disaster.

It was indicated that during this period Richie has seen many changes and has been a great leader and co-ordinator in all types of situations and has never strayed away from a challenge.

It was interesting to note that Richard has been Captain of the Kempton Fire Brigade for the past forty-two (42) years.



MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THE AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS PRESENTATION & CEREMONY FOR THE SUCCESSFUL AWARD WINNERS TO BE HELD AT THE

CITIZEN AWARD
Mr Irvin Kean & Mrs Keitha Kean
YOUNG CITIZEN
Connor Grice
COMMUNITY EVENT AWARD
Woodsdale Memorial Wall and Garden Opening

OATLANDS RSL
26 JANUARY 2015 @ 10.00 A.M.
RSVP: Phone 62545004 by the 19 January 2015 for catering purposes.



Drinking un-pasteurised milk – don't put yourself or your children at risk

In December a young child died and another four became extremely ill after drinking “contaminated” un-pasteurised cow’s milk. The children all drank a commercially available “raw” cow’s milk product being marketed (in Victoria) as bath milk, with it being illegal within Australia to sell raw (unpasteurised) milk for human consumption. Bath Milk is not generally available for purchase in Tasmania, but in Victoria it is predominantly marketed in Health Food Shops, and often next to “normal” milk and in similar type packaging.

Council’s Environmental Health Officer, said that pasteurisation is a process where milk is heated to sufficient temperature so as to “kill” disease causing organisms, whilst not detrimentally affecting the flavour of the milk. Without pasteurisation there is always the risk that disease causing organisms could enter the milk during the milking process, and although refrigeration will generally stop bacteria and other disease organisms from multiplying it will not kill them.

He also said that all milk sold in Australia for human consumption has to be pasteurised, and this has been the case for many, many years, including when milk used to be sold in bottles (with the cream at the top). Tasmania’s Director of Public Health, Roscoe Taylor recently stated that “some people have a belief that unpasteurised milk is healthier and knowingly feed their children or themselves unpasteurised milk even though it’s marketed supposedly for bath purposes”.



So although using fresh food is generally best there needs to be an understanding that this should not extend to using raw products which require some treatment so as to make them safe for human consumption. Pasteurisation, which was invented by the famous French scientist Louis Pasteur, who is often referred to as the father of microbiology, in the 19th century, is one process that is used to make foods (not only milk) safe to consume.

So if you must bathe in milk then do so by all means, but if you wish to have a glass of milk or milk on your cereal, and especially if it is for the very young or the sick or the old, then “pasteurised is best”.

Any queries regarding milk and pasteurisation can be directed to Council’s Environmental Health Officer, Leon McGuinness, at Council’s Kempton office phone 62593011 (Tues or Thurs).



Dining with Friends

COMMENCING
TUESDAY 18th NOVEMBER 2014
IN OATLANDS!!

And then on the
Third Tuesday of each month

5:30 pm

Oatlands District High School
Cooking Room
(opposite Community Garden)

Dining with friends aims to bring people together to enjoy a nutritious three course meal, meet new people and socialise.

Dining with Friends is a sub-program of Loui’s Van.

No cost but all donations enable the continuing success of Dining with Friends and are gratefully accepted and appreciated.

Transport can be arranged from Tunnack or Jericho in towards Oatlands.

Limited seats!! To attend please contact Janelle on 6234 4244 or Greg on 6259 3011.

LIFT THE LID



FREE bbq and football match

Meet Troy Luff
Sydney Football Club’s star player

- ‘Lift the Lid Trophy’ football match
- FREE bbq
- special guest speakers
- lucky door prize
- childrens activities
- Information about mental wellbeing

When: Saturday February 28, 11am-2.30pm

Where: Oatlands Football Oval

These service providers will be there with information...



How to contact us!

Council Meetings 2015

Date	Venue	Time
28/01/2015	Campania Hall	10.00 am
24/02/2015	Tunbridge Hall	10.00 am

Please note dates may be subject to change, please check website prior to meeting.

[A public copy of Council meeting agendas and minutes](http://www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au) are available www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au



Heritage Highway Visitor Centre & Callington Mill

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.

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
Works Dept. 03 6254 5008

Development & Environmental
Services Office 03 6259 3011
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
Development 03 6259 3011

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 6268 6365

After Hours Emergency Service
0419 325 405

Elected Members:

Mayor Tony Bisdee O.A.M.
P: 6259 1128
F: 6259 1418
M: 0418 355158
E: tonybisdee@bigpond.au

Deputy Mayor
Mark Jones O.A.M.
P: 6254 0074
F: 6254 0074
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Clr Tony Bantick
P: 62686277
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E: tony@4one4.com.au

Clr Edwin Batt
P: 62591166
M: 0400 009471
E: edwinbatt@gmail.com

Clr Bob Campbell
M: 0404 260026
M: 0458 440166

Clr Don Fish
P: 6255 5157
F: 6255 5257

Clr Alex Green
P: 6260 4153
F 6260 4036
M: 0429 604153
E: aogreen@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