



Newsletter

Issue 1 | January 2017



Mayors Report

Here we are at the beginning of another year and already we are faced with a very dangerous fire risk situation throughout the municipal area. The legacy of a bounteous 2016 spring season has not only provided us with substantial vegetation growth, but also the high fire risk

potential when this dries off. Extreme care and vigilance is essential during this summer season, as fires (and especially wild fires) can cause so much devastation to property and loss of animals.

Whilst our Volunteer Fire Brigades are now well equipped and resourced, in a major fire they need all the community assistance that is available. With this in mind, I ask all property owners to reduce excessive vegetation from around their properties. In doing so, this will help reduce the potential of fires to the whole community.

I take this opportunity to reflect on the ongoing benefit and success of our 'Local Government Shared Services' initiative. The current members of the Shared Services Agreement include the Southern Midlands, Brighton, Central Highlands, Glamorgan-Spring Bay, Huon Valley, Sorell and Tasman Councils. There are also two Northern Territory Council members, being Litchfield and Palmerston.

An estimated \$1.2 million has been saved by the participating councils through sharing of resources in the past year. This provides major financial benefits to the participating members and is a means of keeping rate increases to a minimum. Other councils are presently considering joining the Shared Services Agreement which will further increase the potential for a greater exchange of services and achieve net benefits for participating councils. Last year some 14,000 hours of services were exchanged between participating councils. Examples of shared services include asset management; engineering; facility management; financial management; planning and works.

This initiative demonstrates the willingness and cooperation that exists between councils – all aimed at reducing costs for the benefit of our ratepayers.

Another example of working in conjunction with our neighbouring Councils is the formation of the South Central Sub-Region of Councils. This Sub-Region consists of the Southern Midlands, Brighton, Central Highlands and Derwent Valley Councils. The Sub-Region was formed in

early 2016 to facilitate a more collaborative approach in promoting our sub-region, and enhancing the economic and social values within this large geographical area.

The Sub-Region has commenced a Workforce Planning Project designed to provide a greater understanding of the available skills; training and education gaps; and strengths within our region. It will identify restraints to increased employment and economic growth opportunities.

Both of these initiatives, the 'Local Government Shared Services' and the establishment of the 'South Central Sub-Region' are resulting in greater efficiencies and management of our resources. It demonstrates that local councils can work effectively and collaboratively together for the benefit of individual councils, the ratepayers and the region as a whole.

In closing, I extend to everyone the very best for a happy and prosperous New Year.

Anthony E Bisdee

Clr Tony Bisdee O.A.M
MAYOR

Community Meeting for Tunbridge Residents

23 January 2017 at 7 pm
at the Community Club
(light refreshments provided)

At this meeting we will discuss a Tunbridge Streetscape Project, the aim of which is to identify and prioritise projects for:

- improving the ambience and appearance of Tunbridge; and
- improving the functionality and presentation of community infrastructure and assets.

The community meeting will lay the foundation for the development of a Streetscape Project Plan that has the support and endorsement of the majority of residents.

At this stage the aim is to present the Project Plan to Council for their consideration at the Council meeting in Tunbridge on Tuesday February 21st.

For further details please contact Graham Green:
ggreen@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au
0422936027

**GROW WITH NBN *GRANTS PROGRAM
NOW OPEN**



Are you **connected** to the **nbn™** network?
Would \$25K boost your growth?

We are looking for stories that demonstrate how the **nbn™** network is driving growth for your business, your teams and your ideas.

The AIIA has partnered with **nbn** to create \$150K in grants across **business**, **community** and **education** categories for **nbn™** network users.

There are three grants of \$25K and six grants of \$10K up for grabs, and a 'nbn™ Staff Choice' award of \$15K.

Tell us your story

Visit www.growwithnbn.com.au to find out more and to apply.

Applications close Friday, 17 February 2017 12noon AEDT

The Australian Information Industry Association (AIIA) is Australia's peak representative body and advocacy group for those in the digital ecosystem



**Southern Midlands Council
Australia Day Awards**

Thursday, 26th January 2017
10.00 a.m.
Oatlands RSL Club

All welcome to attend
RSVP to mail@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au or Ph: 6254 5000

Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year & Community Event of the Year Awards presented by Mayor A E Bisdee OAM

'Australia Day Ambassador'
Emily Conolan in attendance



Supporting communities into the future

Operating in Tasmania for over 40 years, South Eastern Community Care (SEC Care) is a not-for-profit organisation providing care and community support, helping Tasmanians with special needs remain independent and active members of their community. At SEC Care, we support people from childhood to 65 years and beyond who require assistance to live independently in their homes and community.

Our services cover a range of flexible in-home care, community support and centre-based services to people living in rural and regional areas of Tasmania, predominately in the south/south-east of the state, but our scope is growing.

SEC Care is also a registered National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) provider, currently offering services to young eligible people through the NDIS.

In 2014, SEC Care purchased the old Sorell Council Chambers, located at 12 Somerville Street, Sorell. Two years later, and the organisation is gearing up to move into the building, which is expected to take place at the end of January 2017. The heritage-listed building we're moving into was home to the Sorell Council for many years, and prior to that it was the site of the second oldest gaol in Tasmania, the foundations of which are still under the current building. Access to all SEC Care services and programs are by referral from health professionals, referral agencies or by self-referral, which can be submitted through the My Aged Care Portal online at www.myagedcare.gov.au/referral.

For more information on our services, visit www.secommunitycare.com.au, like us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/secommunitycare or call our friendly staff on (03) 6269 1200.





TasWater has installed a water filling station next to the Bagdad Post Office.

The filling station uses an electronic key system to help you manage your water needs 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Two key options are available:

- **An account key**
- **A Prepaid Key**

The keys are available at a cost of \$50 from TasWater's Hobart office at 169 Main Road, Moonah.

You will simply need to swipe your key to access water at any time of the day or night with charges set by the Economic Regulator at a cost of \$1.5165 per kilolitre (2016-2017 FY).

Prepaid keys include \$20 of water and a \$30 deposit which you get back if you return the electronic key to TasWater.

The amount of credit reduces as you take water – but you can 'top up' your credit at any time.

Please note that the pre-paid cards can only be used at the Bagdad filling station.

Account keys include a \$50 deposit which you get back if you return the electronic key to TasWater.

With an account key you will receive a monthly account for any water you have taken.

Account keys can be used at any TasWater filling station – visit www.taswater.com.au for location details.

The Bagdad Post Office has a spare hose fitting which can be used temporarily - but you will need to purchase your own hose fittings for your personal use.

TasWater will be decommissioning the current system run by the Post Office and the Southern Midlands Council in the new year.

For more information, please contact TasWater on 13 6992.

Lake Dulverton and Dulverton Walkway Action Plan

The Lake Dulverton and Callington Park Management Committee are currently reviewing the *Lake Dulverton and Dulverton Walkway Action Plan*. The plan essentially deals with development on the public area of the Lake Dulverton foreshore and the Dulverton Walking track (Oatlands to Parattah).

The previous 2013 edition of the plan is in need of a review, as many of the actions identified in the plan have been completed. The public are invited to view the current draft 2017 plan and make comment.

Suggestions of any new ideas to be included as actions are also welcome. The plan can be viewed on the Council web site under the Latest News section or in person at the Council offices – Kempton and Oatlands. Comments will be sought over a three week period, closing on 2nd February 2017. Comments may be either in writing and sent addressed to the General Manager Southern Midlands Council, 71 High Street, Oatlands 7120, or via email: mail@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au.

All comments will be considered initially by the Committee and then Council. The final version of the plan will go to a Council meeting for endorsement by Council.



Swimming Pool Fencing it could save a life!



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 or access gate that is not compliant with the legislation. In other words, pool barrier/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 an Australian Standard pool barrier around ANY pool that can be filled with more than 300mm of water. This includes inflatable and portable swimming pools.

The maintenance of pool barriers 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 neighbour 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 launched a Home Pool Safety campaign 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.

MEETING	DATE	LOCATION
Council Meeting	Wednesday, 25 th January 2017	Campania Hall
Council Meeting	Tuesday, 21 st February 2017	Tunbridge Hall
Council Meeting	Wednesday, 22 nd March 2017	Woodsdale Hall
Council Meeting	Wednesday, 26 th April 2017	Broadmarsh Hall
Council Meeting	Wednesday, 24 th May 2017	Oatlands
Council Meeting	Wednesday, 28 th June 2017	Kempton
Council Meeting	Wednesday, 26 th July 2017	Oatlands

Fire Hazards

Owners and occupiers of land in the Municipality are reminded that over the coming weeks abatement notices will, where considered necessary, be issued for the appropriate clearing of fire hazards.

Under the Local Government Act 1993, Council is required to issue Fire Abatement Notices that calls for the removal of the hazard within a specific time period.

Failure to remove fire hazards by the specific time, could lead to compulsory clearance at the property owners expense.

For further information or for reporting of a potential fire hazard, please contact the Fire Abatement Officer Jack Lyall on 6254 5000.

Community Bushfire Protection Plan

KEMPTON-MELTON MOWBRAY

March, 2013 | Version 1.2

Tasmania Fire Service may not be able to protect you during some bushfires. Know what to do and where to go when threatened by bushfire.

Receive bushfire updates from
Tasmania Fire Service

- www.facebook.com/TasmaniaFireService
- [@TasFireService](http://www.twitter.com/TasFireService)
- www.fire.tas.gov.au RSS feeds

For more information please call 1800 000 699 or visit our website
www.ffre.tas.gov.au

Please refer to TFS website for latest version of this document.

Are YOU bushfire ready? PREPARE • ACT • SURVIVE

Most of Tasmania is bushfire-prone. Every summer you need to be bushfire-ready.

This plan sets out the things you should do to survive a bushfire. Get the latest version and use it to update your personal Bushfire Survival Plan.



For the latest Council news visit:

www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au or like us on facebook



BUSHFIRE: Tasmanian Community Preparation and Response

PARTICIPANTS NEEDED FOR SURVEY

Invitation

You are invited to participate in research being conducted by Central Queensland University, part of the national Bushfire and Natural Hazards Research Centre.

This project aims to improve community bushfire safety in South Eastern Tasmania by collating the views and decisions of households living in areas at risk of bushfire. Many of the results will also apply to the rest of Australia and internationally. The Tasmanian Fire Service is a partner in this project along with many organisations and research institutions throughout Australia.

Why?

When bushfires occur it is important to learn as much as possible about the fires and people's experience of them. This helps emergency services and other groups develop better ways to improve community safety for future fires.

What does it involve?

The survey covers things like:

- ❖ Do you have a bushfire survival plan?
- ❖ What factors influence your plan?
- ❖ How do you keep up with information about bushfire threats?
- ❖ What would you do to improve your safety and that of your pets and large animals (such as horses), before and during a bushfire?

Due to the need for reliable and relevant information, parts of the survey are quite detailed. Depending on your individual experiences and circumstances, it will take between 10 and 40 minutes to complete. (You can fill some out, save it and go back later to complete it.)

The survey is anonymous and has CQ University ethics clearance.

To take part in this vital research, please go to



Questions?

Contact Dr Lisel O'Dwyer:
Mob 0412 199 385
l.odwyer@cqu.edu.au

bit.ly/TasFireSurvey

or call 0412 199 385
Thank you for helping!



bnhrc.com.au



Register your dog

Registration and Microchipping of dogs is not only the 'right thing to do', it is a legal requirement.

A registered dog is the easiest and most effective way of assisting your furry family member to be reunited with you quickly

and safely in the unfortunate event they 'escape' or get lost in any area.

If your dog is lost it is recommended that you contact Council and if you are on Facebook, send the details to the 'Tasmanian Lost Pet Register'.

Other things you can do to hasten a reunion are to ensure that your correct contact details are provided to Council and your dog's microchip database, (your current and best contact number and an alternative contact in the event you are away or not available).

Along with Council's registration tag, it is recommended to also attach an identification disc/tag providing your dog's name, address and telephone number, (this will assist a caring neighbour to contact you directly or bring your pet home).

Unidentifiable dogs will be impounded until their owners come forward. This can be costly for an owner and a stressful time for your dog. Penalties can be applied for unregistered and un-microchipped dogs in accordance with the *Dog Control Act 2000*.

For further information on this or any other animal management issue, please contact Southern Midlands Council Animal Management Officer on (03) 6259 3011, Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 5:20pm.



Weeds – Update

The current Southern Midlands weeds of most concern are **Patterson's Curse**, **Chilean Needle Grass** and **African Lovegrass**. In November Council sent out letters to property owners that do have Patterson's Curse on their property and also advising adjoining property owners. Southern Midlands also has Chilean Needle Grass literally on 'our doorstep' with some quite large infestations recorded at Tea Tree. Recent information on the occurrence of African Lovegrass has been received by Council. This species has been noted on the Midland Highway verge at Jericho through to just south of Tunbridge.

Do not underestimate the impact that these weeds will have if they can get a hold in our landscape. Please make every effort to make yourself aware of these three weeds and plan a control program should you spot them on your property. For full weed identification information it is suggested that the DPIPW web site be visited. Council is being proactive in managing weeds on roadsides and public lands under Council control and follow up is proving to be a key attribute to success. If you would like any further information, please contact Council's Landcare / NRM Office on a Monday or Tuesday through 6254 5000.



Welcome to the Southern Midlands of Tasmania, 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 3400 rateable properties and 6000 persons scattered throughout the districts.

Towns and localities include Mangalore, Bagdad, Broadmarsh, Elderslie, Dysart, Kempton, Melton Mowbray, Oatlands, Tunbridge, Tunnack, Parattah, Woodsdale, Levendale, Runnymede, Colebrook, Campania and Rekuna.

Contact Us!

Oatlands Office

Corporate Services, Works and Technical Services, Natural Resource Management, Heritage Resources and Management, Information Technology

71 High Street, Oatlands Tasmania 7120

Customers Service Opening Hours (Mon - Fri 9.00am - 4.30pm)

Phone 03 6254 5000 (Mon - Fri 8.30am - 5.20pm)

Fax 03 6254 5014

mail@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au

Kempton Office

Development and Environmental Services, Community and Corporate Development

85 Main Street, Kempton Tasmania 7030

Customers Service Opening Hours (Mon - Fri 9.00am - 4.30pm)

Phone 03 6259 3011 (Mon - Fri 8.30am - 5.20pm)

Fax 03 6259 1327

mail@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au

Heritage Highway Visitor Centre

The Callington Mill Complex

1 Mill Lane, Oatlands Tasmania 7120

Phone 03 6254 1212

Fax 03 6254 1467

tourism@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au



Chauncy Wildlife Sanctuary

345 Chauncy Vale Road Bagdad

Phone 6268 6365

Current Councillors

Mayor and Councillor enquiries can be directed to:
 Elisa Lang Executive Assistant - 6254 5004
mail@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au

Mayor Tony Bisdee OAM	0418 355158
Deputy Mayor Alex Green	0429 604153
Councillor Tony Bantick	0419 340157
Councillor Edwin Batt	0400 009471
Councillor Robert (Bob) Campbell	0404 260 026
Councillor Donald Fish	6255 5157
Councillor David Marshall	6260 4300

Or visit www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au for further contact details.

For all Council after hours emergencies, please phone 0419 325 405

For all after hours Water & Sewerage emergencies, please phone 13 6992

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 should be directed to State Growth on 1800 030 688

COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

For Information in relation to placing items on the Community Notice Board, please contact Councils IT Officer Nick Wilson at the Oatlands Office or Email webmaster@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au

Waste Transfer Station Hours

OATLANDS WASTE TRANSFER STATION
 Inglewood Road, Andover, Tasmania
 (Via Tunnack Main Road Oatlands to Parattah)

- Tuesday 1.00 pm - 5.00 pm
- Friday 11.00 am - 3.00 pm
- Saturday 8.00 am - 12.00 pm
- Sunday 1.00 pm - 5.00 pm

CAMPANIA WASTE TRANSFER STATION
 Brown Mountain Road, Campania, Tasmania

- Tuesday 1.00pm - 5.00pm
- Thursday 1.00pm - 5.00pm
- Saturday 8.00am - 12.00pm
- Sunday 1.00pm - 5.00pm

DYSART WASTE TRANSFER STATION
 Huntingdon Tier Road, Dysart, Tasmania

- Tuesday 1.00pm - 5.00pm
- Saturday 12.00pm - 5.00pm
- Sunday 10.00am - 5.00pm