



Mayors Report



We have indeed been very fortunate in not having had any significant bushfires in the Southern Midlands. This is despite dry conditions, extremely hot days and gale force winds. I wish to thank everyone for recognising the potential danger and taking appropriate

measures to reduce and remove excess vegetation from their properties. A lower fuel load makes a less dangerous situation for themselves and neighbours.

We all applaud our volunteer firefighters for their continued service to safeguard our community from the devastating consequences of a major fire. To all of those volunteers our heartfelt thank you.

Since the last Southern Midlands Council newsletter, there have been several positive developments in the Southern Midlands.

The Midlands Irrigation Scheme is nearing completion and this major project will allow greater diversification of agricultural enterprises in the Southern Midlands. Already a large dairy has been built near Tunbridge which takes advantage of the availability of irrigation water. Surety of irrigation water will not only consolidate existing poppy growing activities, but also allow for expansion of this very important cropping enterprise within the Southern Midlands. The Scheme also enables landowners to expand their own 'on-farm' irrigation infrastructure and there is certainly evidence of substantial investment occurring.

Other positive developments include the recent approval of two separate development applications for the establishment of whiskey distilleries (and associated tourist facilities). These developments are planned for the property 'Shene' at Mangalore, and at the rear of the Midlands Hotel in Oatlands which is adjacent to the Callington Mill Precinct. Both these developments represent a major investment in the Southern Midlands and will add to our visitor and tourism experience, and create employment opportunities.

Another major development has

been the endorsement and submission of the Draft Southern Midlands Interim Planning Scheme 2014 to the Tasmanian Planning Commission after three years work.

All Councils in Tasmania are submitting Draft Interim Planning Schemes which, for the first time, contain common elements. All are based on the standard statewide template and contain a number of other provisions that are now mandatory throughout Tasmania (such as those dealing with bushfire risk). Within each region the new schemes contain many more common provisions and the bulk of the new Southern Midlands scheme is in fact derived from the Southern Tasmania Regional Model Planning Scheme. In addition to state and regional content, there are local provisions. These are needed to accommodate particular local issues and differences, and have been established and endorsed by your Council.

Over the past three years much public consultation has been undertaken and a very exhaustive review process by both Council Planning Officers and elected members have produced a Planning Scheme document that reflects the planning imperatives required for an equitable and modern Planning Scheme into the future to guide development within Southern Midlands. We anticipate the new Interim Planning Scheme will be declared by the Planning Minister and in operation by the end of this year.

State Government Election – March 2014

As we are all aware, a State Government election will be held on 15th March. Myself and the General Manager have made submissions to senior members of the major political parties, not only in respect to our priority project being the Midlands Aquatic and Recreation Centre, but also a number of other plans for the municipal area.

In relation to the Aquatic and Recreation Centre, the aim is to construct a new facility that will replace the existing pool, operate all year round and cater for the broader region.

In addition, we will continue to lobby for a number of other projects and issues which impact on our community, including an upgrade of State Government roads within the municipality; retention of ambulance services and

adequate funding for the Midlands Multi-Purpose Health Centre at Oatlands.

Review into the Number of Councillors to be Elected to the Southern Midlands Council

The Director of Local Government, Philip Hoysted, has written to Council confirming that the Minister for Local Government (Hon Bryan Green MHA), has accepted the recommendation of the Local Government Advisory Board which conducted a review into the number of Councillors to be elected to the Southern Midlands Council (and other Tasmanian Councils).

The Board concluded that the number of Councillors should be reduced from nine to seven, and this will take effect from the forthcoming election scheduled for October 2014.

At the same time, all Councils will move to a system of 'all in all out' at the October election. This differs from the past whereby only half of Councillors were up for election each two years.

All councillors elected in October will have a four year term including the positions of Mayor and Deputy Mayor. These new arrangements will see a considerable cost saving as elections will only be held every four years instead of two.

Capital Works Program

A number of capital works projects are being undertaken at the present time. These include planning for the total replacement of the Brown Mountain Road Bridge at Campania (temporary bypass has been constructed); construction of kerb and gutter in Swan Street, Bagdad; road widening on Rhyndaston Road to improve sight distance; and road widening work is to commence shortly on Hall Lane, Bagdad.

Tenders for the reconstruction and resealing of roads have recently been awarded and amongst other roads will include Stonor, Inglewood and Woodsdale Roads.

Kempton Festival

The Kempton Festival, which was organised by the Green Ponds Progress Association through its Festival Committee, was held on 16th February 2014. This was a most successful event with many people attending on a perfect day from a weather perspective. The Kempton Festival not only promotes the village of Kempton and the local community, but raises money to fund local community projects. Over past years, the Festival has enabled the Green Ponds Progress Association to raise and donate some \$16,000 to various bushfire and flood appeals, as well as to local projects (e.g. Blue Place).

Congratulations to the Festival Committee chair (Gabrielle Watkins) and the Green Ponds Progress Association President (John Hay), and their respective dedicated and hard working committee members.

Unfortunately I conclude this report on a very sad note to acknowledge the passing of Councillor Colin John Beven on Friday 21st February 2014.



Councillor Beven was a most dedicated community representative and served over 40 years to both the former Richmond Council and the Southern Midlands Council. First elected to the former Richmond Council in March 1969 and served until 1981. Following a four year break he was re-elected in 1985 and served continuously through to March 1993 and then elected to the newly formed Southern Midlands Council in April 1993, where he continued until his recent passing.

In December 2013 he was awarded the Local Government Association of Tasmania Life Membership (Long Service) Award. He will be sadly missed by his fellow Councillors and staff of the Southern Midlands Council and we acknowledge and pay tribute to his outstanding contribution to both Councils on which he so generously served.

Our Deepest Sympathy to his wife Coral and Family.

Clr Tony Bisdee OAM
Mayor

Southern Midlands Emergency Management Plan 2014

The Southern Midlands Municipal Emergency Management Committee has recently completed a review of the Emergency Management Plan for the municipal area. Whilst the Committee includes representatives from each of the key emergency management agencies (i.e. Tas Fire, Police, SES) and other organisations, the Committee is keen to receive any feedback and input from the broader community in terms of potential risks within the community that the Committee may not have identified and need to consider.

In summary, the Emergency Management Plan is prepared in accordance with the *Emergency Management Act 2006* and is basically a plan to provide details of the arrangements and responsibilities for the governance and coordination of emergency management within the municipal area. The Plan is to be reviewed at least once every two years.

Whilst the latest review certainly focused on the outcomes of recent bushfire enquiries, and what may have changed over the last two years, the Committee is still keen to hear from any person (or organisation) that may wish to contribute any thoughts in respect to the updated Plan.

A copy of the Southern Midlands Emergency Management Plan 2014 may be viewed on the Council website www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au

Please feel free to contact the Emergency Management Municipal Coordinator (Tim Kirkwood) on telephone 62 545000 should you wish to discuss any issues or seek clarification on any matter. Written comments can be emailed to tkirkwood@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au or mailed to the Southern Midlands Council, PO Box 21 Oatlands.

Deputy Mayor Mark Jones OAM,
Chair, Southern Midlands Emergency Management Committee

Lake Dulverton Conservation Area Matters

Domestic Ducks and Geese

Lake Dulverton is a proclaimed Conservation Area set aside for wildlife (although a number of recreational activities are permitted under the Lake Dulverton Management Strategy). The majority of the Lake area is owned by the Crown but managed by Council. Ratepayers are requested to not release domestic geese and ducks to live on the lake. There have been a number released in the area over the last few months. It can mean that these animals find the sourcing of food difficult because it is something that they have not learnt. They then rely on the public to feed them to survive and often go hungry.

Cumbungi

There have been a few outbreaks of Cumbungi found on the lake this year. It is vital that the lake does not become a site infested with this dominating weed. Information about any Cumbungi on the lake should be provided to the Council office at Oatlands – 62 54 5000.

Walking Dogs Responsibly – Keep our Streets Clean

Exercise helps to relieve boredom and release the pent-up energy of dogs confined to home. Regular exercise reduces incidents of nuisance behaviour such as uncontrolled barking and destructive behaviours.

It is great to exercise your dog, but please do so in a responsible manner. In accordance with the *Dog Control Act 2000* anyone walking a dog in a public place must clean up any droppings. If you are in an area where there are no Council-provided dog tidy bags and bins, please carry your own plastic bag to clean up the waste, and dispose of it responsibly.



FINISHED YOUR BUILDING PROJECT? DON'T FORGET TO GET A CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION!

Council would like to remind all property owners who have undertaken building works that it is necessary to obtain a Certificate of Completion from Council at the end of the project. This is a necessary last step required under Tasmania's Building Regulations. However, it is a step that appears to be easily forgotten, especially for owner-builders.

The absence of a Certificate of Completion often comes to light when a property is being sold and the matter is then identified by the solicitor acting for the purchaser. This can then cause inconvenience to both the vendor and the purchaser and can even delay the settlement date whilst the paper work gets sorted out.

Often the building work has been completed but the owner has simply not sought a final inspection.

The State Government agency with over arching responsibility for the building approvals system has provided the following view in this matter:

Owners/applicants have a responsibility to finish work within two years of granting the Building Permit. The Permit is satisfied/completed when a Certificate of Completion is issued.

If you have undertaken building works in the past and you are not sure if you have obtained a Certificate of Completion, please contact your Building Surveyor or Council's Development & Environmental Services Department on 62593011 and discuss the matter with Linda Cartledge Council's (Building) Permit Authority .

Health & Safety Topic:

Accidental Needle Stick Injury in Public Places

In the community setting, a needle stick injury usually arises from the accidental puncturing of the skin by a syringe needle left in places such as in parks, playgrounds, laneways or public toilets. Not properly discarding (throwing away) used needles may cause injury to you or to someone else. Used or unused needles and other pointed sharp objects must be kept safely away from children at home. When a person suffers a needle stick injury, there is usually anxiety and distress. This is a natural response when thoughts of potential infection with blood borne viruses such as HIV, hepatitis B and C occur.



What to do

When somebody accidentally gets pricked by a needle: as soon as possible, wash the area around the puncture for at least 30 seconds, using soap and warm water. Bottled water can also be used if no hand washing facilities are available.

- Cover the site with band aid or similar dressing seek medical advice immediately.
- If able to do so, put the needle in a rigid-walled, puncture resistant container and seal or securely close the container. As an example, an empty tin with a taped down lid. This container can then be put into an ordinary rubbish bin.
- Don't panic - the risk of catching a serious infection as a result of an accidental needle stick injury is very low, because these viruses do not survive for long outside of the body.

Helpful Hints

Seeking medical attention as soon as possible is important as some medications and vaccinations work best if taken soon after exposure. A health practitioner should also give advice on the possible need and timing of HIV, hepatitis B or hepatitis C testing if required.

People often have questions about testing of a syringe that may have caused a needle stick injury for the presence of viruses such as HIV or hepatitis C. Such testing is not routinely conducted as environmental conditions such as sunlight and heat can degrade evidence of these viruses and make test results unreliable.

Treatment

Treatment, reassurance, counselling and advice can be obtained from:

- local GP
- hospital emergency department
- sexual health clinic - see Telstra White Pages for contacts.

In many cases, treatment of the needle mark and counselling is all that is needed. Counselling is an essential part of the support people should receive and is useful in reducing potential

stress and anxiety. How much counselling each person requires will depend on each individual, and will take into account knowledge of disease transmission, risk and level of anxiety. All treatment and enquiries are dealt with confidentially.

Steps for Disposal of sharps/used syringes

Advise children not to touch disposed of needles/syringes but to inform the nearest adult.

DO NOT recap the needle.

Obtain a '**sharps container**' with a secure lid. A large used coffee tin appropriately labelled with a bold warning may be suitable if a dedicated 'sharps container' is unavailable.

- Bring the sharps container to the needle/syringe.
- Place the sharps container on the ground next to the needle/syringe.
- Remove the lid from the container, **DO NOT HOLD** the container upright in your hand as you are disposing of the needle/syringe.
- Wearing non-porous gloves pick up the needle/syringe by using long handled tongs or a dustpan and broom.
- Place the needle/syringe into the sharps container needle point down.
- Securely fasten the lid onto the sharps container.
- Remove gloves and wash hands well with soap and running water.
- Sharps containers **MUST NOT BE DISPOSED OF IN THE NORMAL WASTE DISPOSAL BAGS or BINS.**
- Contact Council 6259 3011 for disposal location Council Waste Transfer Stations are equipped with approved Sharps Containers (please deposit needles into these containers for Council to properly dispose of them. For further information please contact Council on 62 593011, or via email to mail@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au



SWIMMING POOL REQUIREMENTS

- ⇒ Fences and gates must be at least 1.2m high, with a bottom clearance of no more than 100mm. Any horizontal rails should be inside of the fence and at least 900mm apart. Any vertical rails must not be more than 100mm apart.
- ⇒ Gates must only open outwards and must automatically close and lock. The gate latch must be at least 1.5m above the ground otherwise special conditions may apply.
- ⇒ Boundary fences cannot be used as part of the pool enclosure, unless certified by your Building Surveyor.
- ⇒ Doors leading into the pool must be self-closing and self-locking, and the release latch at least 1.5m above the floor and must not swing into the pool area.
- ⇒ Windows overlooking the pool area must be either totally covered by bars no more than 105mm apart, or not be able to be opened more than 105mm by the use of chains etc.

Marstrand Memorial Bridge Dedication 31st January 2014

The bridge over the river Jordan at Broadmarsh was dedicated to our former Council Engineer the Late Claus Nicolay (Nick) Marstrand FIE Aust CP Eng.

“Claus – or Nick as we always knew him – was a very special member of our team in the Southern Midlands” said Mayor Tony Bisdee. “We are very pleased to honour him in this way”. The ceremony took place in a marquee on the banks of the River Jordan at Broadmarsh.

Claus came to Tasmania aged 15 speaking no English and went to Burnie High School where he quickly learnt the language. He went on to Christ College and later the University of Tasmania becoming a Structural, Civil and Municipal Engineer who worked almost all his professional life in Tasmania.

Mayor, Tony Bisdee OAM, was delighted to welcome the Norwegian Ambassador, Her Excellency Ms Siren Gjerme Eriksen, who came to Tasmania specially to join the Mayor in unveiling the commemorative plaque.



It's the historic significance of the Marstrand family name that has been a special element in attracting the Ambassador to this event. Claus was born in Norway and his father, Thiel Marstrand was the first foreign-born migrant to become an Australian citizen by “Naturalisation” after the Nationality and Citizenship Act was passed in 1948. This Act was an important development in Australia's history as a nation, defining for the first time who could call themselves Australian.

In celebration of the new status an Inaugural Ceremony brought seven men - one from each state and the ACT - to Canberra on 3rd February 1949. The seven were all of different original nationality. Newsreel footage of the 1949 event was played at the opening of the Marstrand Memorial Bridge celebration.

Thiel represented migrants in Tasmania and, as that historic newsreel showed, was chosen as the first to swear the oath of allegiance. Claus Nicolay Marstrand, who was born in Kristiansand, became a citizen at the same time, being listed on the Certificate No.1 with his sister Valborg as Thiel's minor children.

A Plaque was unveiled by Her Excellency Siren Gjourne Erikson, Ambassador of Norway to Australia together with the Mayor of Southern Midlands Council Clr Anthony Bisdee OAM as a tribute to Nick Marstrand and his fourteen years' service to the Southern Midlands Council as Municipal Engineer.

Also in attendance were the Governor of Tasmania The Hon Peter Underwood AC and Mrs Underwood, the wife of Nick Mrs Libby Marstrand and many family members and friends.

At the end of the proceedings, Nick's grandson Edward Doddridge, who is currently a Rhodes scholar undertaking his PhD at Oxford University, made a 'flying-visit' home to present his great grandfather's original Naturalisation Certificate No1, to Steven de Haan, Deputy Director of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery to form part of the Norwegian-Tasmanian collection.

The event was an appropriate acknowledgement of Nick's contribution to the Southern Midlands Council and its community. He was greatly respected by the elected members and his fellow staff members as well as by his professional colleagues as a gentle, considerate and meticulous professional who always strived for “affordable best practice”.

Clr Tony Bisdee,
Mayor

Centre for Heritage at Oatlands



HERITAGE EDUCATION AND SKILLS CENTRE

HESC is about to release its 2014 heritage skills training program. Come along for 1-3 day courses in heritage skills such as solid plastering, stone repair, conservation planning, archaeological survey etc. Course are run across the state, and some are even FREE! Check our website

www.centreforheritage.com.au for details – the site is constantly being updated with new opportunities. Also, check our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/382469035117584/>

HESC is also proud to be staging a series of Heritage Skills Taster Days, where you can come and meet tradespeople, visit a trade fair and hear guest speakers, to be held over 3 days in Hobart, Oatlands and Launceston in late March. See our website for details as they come to hand.

If you would like to join the HESC mailing list, please email heritage@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au or call Brad Williams on 0418 303184.

Council Meetings 2014

Date	Venue
26 March 2014	Tunnack Community Club
16 April 2014	Bagdad Community Club
28 May 2014	Council Office - Kempton
25 June 2014	Council Office - Oatlands



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.

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
 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:

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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