

Mayors Report



Australia Day 2015 Ceremony

What a wonderful attendance to celebrate Australia Day at the Southern Midlands Australia Day Awards Ceremony held at the RSL Club in Oatlands with in excess of 140 people to witness presentations of numerous community awards, Keep Australia Beautiful certificates, Community Small Grant recipients and the inaugural Australia Day Arts Competition winners.

Proudly sponsored by Woolworths, in conjunction with the Department of Premier and Cabinet, we were fortunate to have Janelle Kava as our Australia Day Ambassador this year. Janelle spoke fondly of her work at St Vincent de Paul managing the Loui's Van and Dining with Friends programs in nearby Brighton municipality and beyond, and also enlightened the audience with the news that Dining with Friends [a community monthly evening meal fostering social interaction as well as providing wonderful three course fare] has started at Oatlands in late 2014.

Firstly I wish to congratulate the 2015 award recipients:

- * **Senior Citizen Award – Irvin and Keitha Kean**
- * **Young Citizen Award – Connor Grice**
- * **Event Award – Woodsdale Memorial Wall and Garden Opening**

Secondly I wish to thank the very large number of attendees who came to be a part of the celebrations and enjoy a wonderful morning tea; see the great depth of volunteering; and recognise the number of workers within our region that all make the Southern Midlands region such a wonderful and caring community.

I thank all those wonderful ladies (and men) of the Hospital Auxiliary who worked so hard to provide such a delightful and enjoyable morning tea.

I thank also the President and committee of the Oatlands RSL Club who allowed us to hold our Council Australia Day Award ceremony at the clubrooms. It was a wonderful celebration.



Tim Kirkwood - Emergency Services Medal

As part of the Australia Day Awards, our Council General Manager, Tim Kirkwood, was announced as the recipient of a National Emergency Services Medal.

This recognised his service to the various emergency organisations, including the State Emergency Service as the Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator and volunteer, and volunteer with the Tasmania Fire Service.

Tim's Service Medal was only one of two awarded in Tasmania and one of eleven awarded nationally on Australia Day.

Congratulations Tim on a well-deserved award for your long and distinguished service.



Tasmanian Wooden Boat Festival

For those who may have attended the Tasmanian Wooden Boat Festival in Hobart on Friday morning the 6th February, what a wonderful event it was to see our own Brian Fish and his Bullock team start the festival off with a display of delivering logs to the waterfront by bullock drawn dray, which were then shaped by an adze to form a boat keel.

It was a great spectacle and I wish to thank Brian for taking his bullock team to Hobart. He was ably assisted by Jack Lyall and many other local residents who helped with the demonstration. The crowd, of which I was one, were enthralled with the bullocks and also witnessed Alec Dean demonstrate his superb skills of using an adze to shape the timber logs.

Oatlands and the Southern Midlands received excellent promotion from the bullock team demonstration. It was a great spectacle and well done to everyone involved.

MMPHC and Oatlands Ambulance Operational Issues

Following the large attendance at the public meeting held last November at the Oatlands District High School, at which the State Minister for Health (the Hon Michael Ferguson MP) attended, considerable operational reviews have been initiated or undertaken in relation to the issues raised. The issues have been considered and addressed by both the MMPHC administration and senior officers of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

I am pleased to report that significant progress has been made, which has seen a considerable reduction in the amount of time that the local Ambulance has been off line. Since the public meeting, through discussions and negotiations with the MMPHC staff and Ambulance Volunteers, the availability of the ambulance has increased considerably from an average of 61% 'on-line' from January

to October 2014, to an average of 91% from November 2014 to 31st January 2015 – a very pleasing improvement.

I wish to thank the staff of the MMPHC, the Ambulance Volunteers, and acknowledge the efforts of Ambulance Tasmania for their commitment to increasing the availability of the Oatlands ambulance and improving the service to our community.

I also wish to report (and acknowledge) that the Minister has taken a personal interest in these operational issues since his attendance at the public meeting. He has demonstrated his commitment by personally attending a further five meetings of the Community Advisory Committee at the MMPHC.

There are ongoing discussions regarding all issues and some will take a period to resolve. I will keep the community advised of progress through this Mayors report.

Vale – Former Deputy Mayor Mark Jones OAM

It is with great sadness and a tragic loss to the community that we have experienced the passing of the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Mark Jones OAM. Mark was an inspiration to us all, being an unselfish, dedicated and hard-working member for the Southern Midlands Council; the community of Oatlands and the wider region.



Mark's involvement with many organisations in the Southern Midlands, both sporting and community, endeared him to all, and in particular, those who had the benefit of working with him.

The Midlands Multi-Purpose Health Centre was a particular passion for Mark and he certainly contributed to the MMPHC in so many ways. Community fundraising for the Palliative Care Unit being a more recent example, a facility where he regrettably passed away.

Deputy Mayor Mark Jones OAM was a loyal and passionate Deputy and provided great assistance to me personally. I am proud to say we became close friends through our mutual interest in progressing the aspirations of the Southern Midlands community.

We all thank Mark for his outstanding contribution to our local community. What I believe to be one of the biggest funeral attendances was testament to the respect, admiration and appreciation the community held for him. He will be greatly missed not only by myself, fellow councillors and staff but by everyone that knew him.

Our deepest condolences to Katie, Rachael, Brent, Abbie and Rohan at this time of great sadness and loss.

Rest in peace Mark – you will never be forgotten.

Council Amalgamations

Recently the Minister for Planning and Local Government (the Hon Peter Gutwein MP) convened a meeting of all Tasmanian Mayors and General Managers to discuss the potential for voluntary council amalgamations within Tasmania.

Myself and the General Manager attended a meeting for Southern Councils in Hobart where the Minister sought

co-operation from Councils to begin a discussion regarding reducing the number of councils in Tasmania.

Already, the Southern Midlands Council together with Brighton, Sorell, Glamorgan Spring Bay and Tasman Councils have agreed to establish a 'Common Services Joint Venture'. This is aimed at formalising the current resource sharing arrangements which occur between those Councils, and the intent of the Joint Venture is to introduce a structure that can provide a firm foundation and strategic basis for this to continue. Details of this Venture was presented to the Minister at the conclusion of the regional meeting.

The five participating Councils (at this stage) are firmly of the belief that resource sharing without amalgamations, will prove to be the most cost effective and efficient way of providing services to our communities.

History of previous amalgamations, both nationally and internationally, gives evidence that property rates DO NOT REDUCE with amalgamations and staff rationalisation can be achieved by resource sharing and retaining local governance (councils).

I must emphasise that the Minister repeated many times that the present State Government will not support forced amalgamations but reiterated that he and the government believe there should be fewer councils in Tasmania.

The five southern councils who have signed the Common Services Agreement will now undertake a cost benefit analysis to quantify the benefits to our ratepayers and the Minister of this model.

Councillor Vacancy - Recount and Election of new Deputy Mayor

Following the tragic passing of former Deputy Mayor Mark Jones OAM, a casual vacancy was created within Council. The Tasmanian Electoral Commission was advised of this situation and proceeded to fill the casual vacancy in accordance with the process detailed in the *Local Government Act 1993*. This involved a recount of the former Deputy Mayors' votes received at the October 2014 election.

I am pleased to advise that Mr David Marshall was elected as the candidate to fill the casual vacancy through to the next election, scheduled for October 2018. Councillor Marshall attended his first Ordinary Council meeting in February held at Tunbridge.

Councillor Marshall has lived in the Southern Midlands municipal area for over 30 years. He worked as a farmhand at 'Rockville' York Plains for ten years and then for Hydro Tasmania for a further 22 years. David has now retired to a small farm near Campania where he lives with his wife Christine. We extend a very warm welcome to Councillor Marshall.

Council was also required to elect a new Deputy Mayor at the February Council meeting. Again this follows a process detailed in the *Local Government Act 1993*, and involves seeking nominations and the conduct of a secret ballot of all Councillors.



Clr Alex Green

Two nominations were received and following the conduct of a ballot, Councillor Alex Green was elected to the office of Deputy Mayor.

Congratulations to Councillor Green, our new Deputy Mayor.

**Clr Tony Bisdee O.A.M
Mayor**

Exhibition sponsored by Southern Midlands Council and part of the National Trust Heritage Festival 2015 'Signature Event'

Sex, Death and Interior Decoration

You might not normally hear those words spoken in the same sentence, but that's exactly what you'll find in May at the Oatlands Gaol. Or, to be more specific...

This exhibition looks at the extraordinary back-stories of some of the characters who populated Oatlands in the mid nineteenth century, and the choices they made when it came to decorating their homes. Thanks to Southern Midlands Council's growing collection of historic wallpaper samples discovered in local houses and public buildings, it is now possible to match wallpaper fragments to the people who originally chose them, and the results are often surprising. Why, for example, did two Oatlands ex-convicts (a cattle thief and an ex-prostitute) chose a vivid 'landscape' wallpaper for their tiny two-roomed cottage? Why did a transported Scottish barmaid choose a wallpaper printed in real gold? (The answer may surprise you...). And what was Supreme Court Judge Algernon Montagu looking at when he sentenced Thomas Marshall to be 'hanged, dissected and anatomised'?

Find out the answers to all this and more at the Oatlands Gaoler's Residence, Mason Street Oatlands, 10:30 am to 3 pm every Thursday, Friday and Saturday in May.



Southern Midlands Council's Landcare Unit news and opportunities

Are you interested in being advised about field days, events and grant opportunities related to Landcare and agriculture? The Southern Midlands Council's Landcare Unit receives various emails from organisations conducting seminars, field days and grant rounds relating to environmental and agricultural topics. Often there is limited time to inform people of these opportunities. The Landcare Unit would like to email this information to people within the Southern Midlands. Please email Helen Geard on hgeard@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au if you would like to receive this type of information. You will then receive an email from Helen asking you for a few additional details about your areas of interest eg agriculture, irrigation, organic practices, bush conservation, weed management. The details collected will ensure that only relevant emails are sent to you.

Please note- if at any stage you no longer wish to participate simply email to advise.

A Kempton Affair 2015 Celebrating the Arts Tuesday 24 March 2015

Sponsored by
Greater Green Ponds Branch Tasmanian Regional Arts
Southern Midlands Council and supported by Ten Days'
Tasmanian International Arts Festival

3.00—7.00 pm
Exhibition of Southern
Midlands Australia Day
Art Competition
Blue Place free

6.30—7.15 pm
Ticketed supper
Victoria
Memorial Hall

Tickets available
from SMC 85 Main
Street, Kempton

5.00—6.00 pm
Matthew Fagan
Classical Guitar Recital
St Marys Church
(featuring a stunning repertoire
of classical music and Spanish
dances)
Full Price \$12.00
Concession \$10.00

7.30—8.35 pm
Ten Days' Tasmanian International Arts Festival
Alzheimer Symphony, Victoria Memorial Hall
Tickets from: www.tendays.org.au

Frequently Asked Question: When is a Building Permit Needed?

In most circumstances building work will require a permit from your local Council.

E.g.: Dwellings, Additions, Garages, Sheds, Farm Buildings, Carports, Structural Repairs and other building works.

It is in your interest to obtain a Building Permit.

If you wish to sell your property in the future, potential purchasers will discover if there are works that have been undertaken without a permit. This may well hinder the sale and could potentially invalidate a signed contract if not disclosed beforehand. On the other side; if you purchased a property with building works which were not appropriately approved, you inherit all the associated problems.

The fundamental reason why the law required building permits is to ensure buildings are safe, and that it can be proved they are safe.

Certain buildings and building work are exempt

These regulations, other than [Part 1, Divisions 1 and 2 of Part 2, regulation 23](#) and [Part 4](#), do not apply in relation to obtaining a building permit under [section 60](#) of the Act in respect of the following:



- | | |
|--|--|
| (a) an outbuilding if –
(i) it is the only building of its type on the site; and
(ii) the total area does not exceed 9 square metres; and
(iii) no side is longer than 3 metres; and
(iv) no part is more than 2.4 metres above the ground; | (h) a water tank if it has a capacity of less than 45 kilolitres; |
| (b) a pergola, garden arch, trellis or frame if the structure –
(i) does not exceed 20 square metres in total area; and
(ii) is no more than 3 metres above the floor or ground; and
(iii) is not covered or is covered only by open-weave material which allows water through; | (i) a water tank stand if it is not higher than 1.2 metres; |
| (c) a swimming pool if –
(i) the maximum possible water surface area is not more than 9 square metres; and
(ii) the maximum possible water depth is not more than 300 millimetres; | (j) a builder's site shed if it is being –
(i) used in connection with building work for which building permit is in force; or
(ii) stored in a location permitted by the building surveyor; |
| (d) a non-roofed windmill, a mast, antenna or flagpole if –
(i) it is not attached to a building and not more than 6 metres high; or
(ii) it is attached to a building and is not higher than 6 metres above the topmost point of attachment to the building; or
(iii) it is a dish antenna with a diameter of not more than 2 metres and the total area of the dish antenna attached to the supporting structure is not more than 4 square metres; | (k) an explosives magazine, a tank containing dangerous goods or a gas installation if the Competent Authority, within the meaning of the <i>Dangerous Goods Act 1998</i> , controls how the magazine, tank or installation may be used; |
| (e) a fence or wall constructed of masonry or concrete if it is not higher than 1.2 metres; | (l) the repair or maintenance of an existing building if the work is done for maintenance purposes using similar materials, equipment, installations and components to those being replaced; |
| (f) a fence constructed of a material other than masonry or concrete if it is not higher than 2.1 metres; | (m) a non-habitable underground structure on a mining lease; |
| (g) a retaining wall if –
(i) it retains a difference in ground levels of less than one metre; and
(ii) it is situated more than 1.5 metres from a boundary or way; | (n) the installation of a stairway lift or platform lift in a Class 1a building; |
| | (o) a temporary structure that is –
(i) required to have a temporary occupancy permit; or
(ii) exempted under regulation 38 from the requirement to have a temporary occupancy permit. |

Thinking of being an 'Owner/Builder'?

Within the building permit process an owner/builder is an owner of a property that takes on the responsibilities of the builder. To be an owner/builder you need to meet certain criteria and understand both your obligations and restrictions.

Warning: It is an offence for any person other than an appropriately accredited builder or an owner builder to manage or carry out the work of a builder. Building work carried out or managed by an owner builder may be subject of an audit by the Director of Building Control. To find out the full facts about the requirements for Owner/Builders visit the website [Steps to becoming an owner builder](#) which includes information and guidelines that all intending Owner/Builders must read before applying for pre-registration.

For further information regarding building work and building permits, contact Council's Development and Environmental Services.

A Reminder to Clearly Display your Property Address

Rural properties can be difficult to locate. Many people have experienced the frustration of trying to find an unfamiliar property in a remote area. This frustration is also shared by emergency services, utilities and delivery services.

In an emergency, every second counts. Finding your home is critical in the event of a medical emergency or a bushfire.

Without a clearly positioned rural address number, emergency services vehicles can easily miss an entrance or may not even know a dwelling exists on a property. A delay in emergency services could mean the difference between life and death.

What are the Benefits of a Clearly Displayed Rural Address?

Rural addressing benefits a whole range of people and organisations including:

- ◆ Emergency Services (police, ambulance, fire brigade) by being able to locate your property in an emergency.

- ◆ Commercial business by improved delivery of goods and services.
- ◆ Australia Post for more efficient mail delivery.
- ◆ Installation of new services such as power, NBN and other telecommunications
- ◆ Friends and family. Visitors will be able to follow the sequential numbers along the road and know the distance to reach your property; and
- ◆ Above all, it benefits you!

What you have to do

Please ensure your road number is clearly visible to road users at all times. It must be located at the main entrance to your home from a public road. The number must be reflective so it can be seen at night time.

Further information contact Council's Development and Environmental Services Department (6259 3011).



Council awards Major Contracts

At its February 2015 meeting Council formally approved two major contracts. One being the refurbishment of the Rotherwood Road Bridge, over the Jordan River at Lower Marshes and the other being for Sports Ground Lighting at the Oatlands Recreation Ground as well as the Campania Recreation Ground.

Rotherwood Road Bridge

The refurbishment of the Rotherwood Road Bridge is to be undertaken by Tas Marine Constructions Pty Ltd at a value of \$169,260.00 excluding GST. The works will comprise the replacement of the timber deck with precast reinforced concrete units, plus the replacement of the bearings between the abutments and the steel beams. Works are required to be completed before the end of June 2015. The construction program is currently being refined to accommodate specific issues and it is anticipated that the contract period will be in the order 10 weeks. Given Rotherwood Road is a no through road property owners on the western side of the Jordan River have already been contacted in order to provide preliminary advice about the bridge works. Further information about a firm construction timeline, nominating bridge outage days, along with alternative access details will be provided to property owners over the next few weeks. It would be appreciated if travel in and around the Rotherwood Road area over the next few months could be kept to a minimum by non-residents, that would be greatly appreciated.

The general public are asked to observe all advisory signs during the contract period. Public enquiries in respect of these works should be directed to Jack Lyall, Manager Works & Technical Services, phone 62 5450 00 during normal working hours.



Sports Ground Lighting Oatlands and Campania Recreation Grounds

Sport and recreation are important components of the lifestyle enjoyed by residents and visitors to the Southern Midlands, and the Council has sought to provide reasonable access to a range of facilities and services over the years. A business case was prepared, in recognition of Council's Southern Midlands Recreation Plan, which supports the continuing development of our two principal sporting/recreation grounds, the Oatlands Recreation Ground and the Campania Recreation Ground.

The current sports lighting of the two grounds is inadequate and significant safety issues arise through that current inadequacy. In fact the existing lighting poles have been condemned and have had to be removed. Therefore new and improved lighting is required.

The proposed sports lighting of the two grounds will elevate the venues to a greater height of player and spectator convenience as well as increase the usage of the grounds through night events for both football and cricket. This all leads to greater participation and as a result the health and wellbeing of the Community will be enhanced.

The works will be undertaken by Tasmanian electrical contractors Stowe Australia Pty Ltd for the amount of \$458,550.00 excluding GST (for both grounds). A grant has also been applied for through the Department of Premier & Cabinet's, Community Sport & Recreation Tasmania for \$80,000 (max. allowable amount) to assist in offsetting some of the capital costs of the projects.

All going well, the works are scheduled to be completed by the 22nd April 2015. Given both grounds will effectively be construction sites, with trenches and light pole foundations exposed. It has been determined by Council that the grounds will be restricted for public use during the contract period. The assistance of the general public would be greatly appreciated in not accessing the grounds and observing all advisory signs during the contract period. Public enquiries in respect of these works should be directed to Andrew Benson, Deputy General Manager, phone 62 593 011 during normal working hours.



Chauncy Vale
Wildlife Sanctuary
www.chauncyvale.com.au

Family Day

Sunday 12th April 2015

12pm-4pm

Guided Walk at 1pm (contact the Caretaker to book)

AT CHAUNCY VALE, 350 Chauncy Vale Rd, BAGDAD

FREE ENTRY

Sausage sizzle or BYO picnic

Guided Walks (Please Phone the Caretaker to Book: 6268-6365)

Chauncy house tours

Books, DVDs and Cards will be for sale

Tea, Coffee and Cordial also available

Please note: In the event of a total fire ban this event will be cancelled as Chauncy Vale will be closed.



Chauncy Vale
Wildlife Sanctuary
www.chauncyvale.com.au

Community Workshop

"Help contribute to the future direction for the Vale"

Sunday 3rd May 2015

2:00pm to 4:00pm

(Free BBQ lunch at 1:00pm)

AT CHAUNCY VALE, 350 CHAUNCY VALE RD, BAGDAD

Community members wishing to play a role in the future of the Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary are invited to attend a community workshop day on Sunday 3 May, 2:00pm to 4:00pm. A BBQ lunch will be provided at 1:00pm.

This is your chance to help review the management and use of Chauncy Vale and the neighbouring Flat Rock Reserve (owned by the Tasmanian Land Conservancy and managed in cooperation with Chauncy Vale).

The workshop will also be an opportunity for any prospective community volunteers to organise and coordinate any future volunteer activities such as working bees and fundraising. It's a great way to look after Chauncy Vale.

Please note: In the event of a total fire ban this event will be cancelled as Chauncy Vale will be closed.

Council Meetings 2015

Date	Venue	Time
25/03 2015	Woodsdale Community Hall	10.00 am
22/04/2015	Broadmarsh Community 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](#) 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.

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:

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

Deputy Mayor
 Clr Alex Green
 P: 6260 4153
 F: 6260 4036
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 E: aogreen@bigpond.com

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 David Marshall
 P: 62604300
 F: 62604300
 E: marshall679@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