



Newsletter

Issue 2 | November 2016



Mayors Report

One could be forgiven for thinking local government in Southern Tasmania is in disarray and dysfunctional, but I wish to assure you that with the exception of a small number of Councils, local government continues to provide efficient and professional services on behalf of its ratepayers. This is particularly so in the

case of the Southern Midlands Council, whereby all Councillors and staff are certainly focused on providing stable and effective leadership.

Unfortunately in recent times, the media have tended to dwell on the negatives and dismiss the many positives and good news stories that local Councils are able to demonstrate and tell.

One such story is the real benefits that are being realised through a resource sharing agreement which has seven participating Councils, they being the Southern Midlands, Brighton, Central Highlands, Derwent Valley, Glenorchy, Sorell and Tasman Councils. A Common Services Joint Venture has been established (refer separate article in this newsletter) and since its inception in April 2015, it can be demonstrated that in excess of \$1 million has been saved for those seven Councils. This positive initiative delivers numerous benefits without the need for amalgamation that results in loss of local representation and identity, not mentioning the potential loss of local employment opportunities.

It is apparent and indeed unfortunate that the State Government, through the Minister for Local Government (Hon Peter Gutwein MP), continues to push for Council amalgamations throughout the State. The position of your Council remains that if amalgamation is to be considered, then it must be proven that there are quantifiable benefits for ratepayers and our local communities, and that improved services will be the result of any proposed amalgamation with any other neighbouring Councils.

On a positive note, it is most pleasing to welcome and experience the level of large scale development and investment that is occurring within the Southern Midlands. At Jericho, Reid Fruits is establishing a \$4.5 million cherry orchard that will require 300-400 fruit pickers at harvest time and a permanent workforce of 12-15 staff. The whiskey distillery industry is rapidly expanding into Southern Midlands with an investment of approximately \$1 million in a new distillery and Visitor Centre at the historic 'Shene' property at Mangalore. The Redlands Distillery has recently relocated from the Derwent Valley to Dysart House at Kempton and planning approval has been given by Council for a new \$1.2 million distillery, Visitor Centre and bond store. Construction is expected to commence in early 2017 which will see the employment of more local residents. These new developments will certainly complement the existing award winning Distillery at 'Belgrove', Kempton.

Council is also actively supporting and encouraging other potential developments planned for Southern Midlands, all aimed at realising the benefits that can accrue from such investment.

During the recent Federal Government election campaign your Council lobbied both major political parties to commit funds for the construction of a new indoor swimming pool at Oatlands. This facility will replace the old and ageing existing pool and provide the opportunity for all community members throughout the midlands region to swim and participate in other water based activities all year round. We were successful in gaining a commitment of \$1.5 million from the Federal Liberal members towards this project. We have subsequently received advice from Senator Jonathon Duniam that this commitment will be honoured and we are now in the process of seeking further funding from the State Government in their 2017/18 budget considerations.

In closing, I can provide assurance that your Councillors and Council staff continue to seek out opportunities to reduce costs and identify administrative efficiencies to provide an improved service to ratepayers. All of this is being done within the context of our Strategic Plan and the overall betterment for ratepayers and our local communities.

Anthony E Bisdee

Clr Tony Bisdee OAM
MAYOR

AUSTRALIA DAY
CELEBRATE
WHAT'S GREAT
26 JANUARY



Southern Midlands Council

NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN

Citizen of the Year

Young Citizen of the Year

Community Event of the Year

Do you know someone who has made an outstanding contribution to the Southern Midlands community?

If so, you are encouraged to nominate them for an Australia Day Award. These Awards recognise the outstanding contribution numerous individuals make in an effort to make our communities a better place to live.

Awards will be presented at the 2017 Australia Day Awards Ceremony.

Further details and nomination forms are available from www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au or at Kempton or Oatlands Municipal offices.

Nominations close at 5.00pm on 28th November 2016.



**COMMUNITY VOICE
ON POKIES REFORM**

The following is an abridged version of an article provided by the Community Voice on Pokies Reform.

Time to have your say on the pokies

Now is your opportunity to tell Tasmanian politicians what you think of pokies. They are holding an inquiry into the future of gambling and in particular pokies. Your opinion counts.

Your opinion would join many others from around the State, including those of more than 40 organisations that formed Community Voice on Pokies Reform a year ago. We include service providers such as the Salvos, St Vinnies and city missions that see first-hand the damage caused by addiction to these machines. Specialist organisations such as the Brain Injury Association, the Foster and Kinship

Carers Association and the Mental Health Council joined the coalition because they know their members are particularly vulnerable to the con job put out by the pokies. We are also supported by grassroots organisations such as the Country Women's Association and Neighbourhood Houses as a reflection of the broad community concern about pokies. Our Council joined the coalition because, while we are currently pokies-free, we don't want to risk pokies licenses in the future in our precious communities.

A submission is simply a letter. They need to be sent by 9 December to the Joint Select Committee on Future Gaming Markets via post to Parliament House or email to fgm@parliament.tas.gov.au

Make your opinion count.

For further information please see www.sarc.good.do

Landcare Office - Weed information

During spring you may notice a number of weeds flowering across the Southern Midlands. Cape Weed and White Weed are prominent this year because they took advantage of the bare ground caused by the recent drought to become established. With the drought now broken, gorse, broom and all weeds are enjoying the favourable growing conditions.

Spanish Heath (*Erica lusitanica*) is of concern in the Levendale area and landholders have been controlling infestations. Pater-son's Curse infestations also remain an issue in the Southern areas of the Municipality (particularly around Broadmarsh, Bagdad and Mangalore).

The Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE) have comprehensive weed information and control guides on their website (dpiuwe.tas.gov.au). Just follow the links from the home page under invasive species at the bottom. Alternatively the Landcare Office have a range of weed brochures available.

Boneseed alert – keep this plant out of the Southern Midlands

Boneseed (Bitou Bush) (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera*) is an erect, woody, evergreen shrub growing to 2-3 metres (or taller in good conditions). The fleshy leaves are an elongated oval shape with toothed edges. Young leaves are a rounder shape. Boneseed flowers from mid-spring to early summer. The yellow flowers develop in clusters at the ends of the branches and resemble the flowers of a daisy. Fruits are round, green berries that ripen to black. Each fruit contains one smooth, hard, bone-coloured seed. Mature plants may produce up to 48 000 seeds per plant per year. The soil seed bank usually consists of 2 000 to 5 000 seeds per square metre.

In some areas (particularly coastal areas) Boneseed was planted as a hardy garden plant and it has now 'escaped' and become a weed. The only known infestation in the Southern Midlands is at Dysart and this has been controlled for the last 10 years.

Despite cutting and pasting each known plant there are still new seedlings appearing.

There are significant infestations near Brighton and along the East Derwent Highway - it has the potential to spread! This is a weed that must not be allowed to establish in the Southern Midlands because it becomes a dense infestation that will totally cover an area. If established it will have a significant impact on native bush, grazing areas and along roadsides.

If you find what you think may be a boneseed plant/infestation then it is important that you ring Helen Geard at the Landcare office (0417 599 816). Helen will help you confirm identification and assist with control measures.



Images DPIPWE website



For the latest Council news visit:

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





Nominations for the Tasmanian Young Achiever Awards are now open and we want our local young achievers to be recognized!

Clr Tony Bisdee, Mayor, Southern Midlands Council encourages residents to nominate a local young person for a Tasmanian Young Achiever Awards.

Nominations are being sought until Thursday, 8th December 2016 in the following categories:-

- ◆ The Coffee Club Arts & Fashion Award
- ◆ Colony 47 Young Indigenous Achievement Award
- ◆ St Lukes Health Healthier Communities Award
- ◆ Heather & Christopher Chong Community Service and Volunteering Award
- ◆ Motors Tasmania Sports Award
- ◆ University of Tasmania, Faculty of Education Teaching Excellence Award
- ◆ TADPAC Print Service to the Disability Sector Award

The Awards will culminate with a Gala Presentation Dinner on Saturday, 8th April 2017 at Wrest Point. Category winners will each receive \$1000.00 thanks to Axsys and a magnificent trophy. One of the seven category winners will be chosen as the Premier's Young Achiever of the Year and will win an additional \$2000.00 grant from the Tasmanian Government, \$1000.00 from Wrest Point and a state trophy.

Nomination enquiry brochures and online nominations can be found at www.bit.ly/tasyaa or for any further information contact via:

E-mail tas@awardsaustralia.com Phone 6234 9677
Web www.awardsaustralia.com

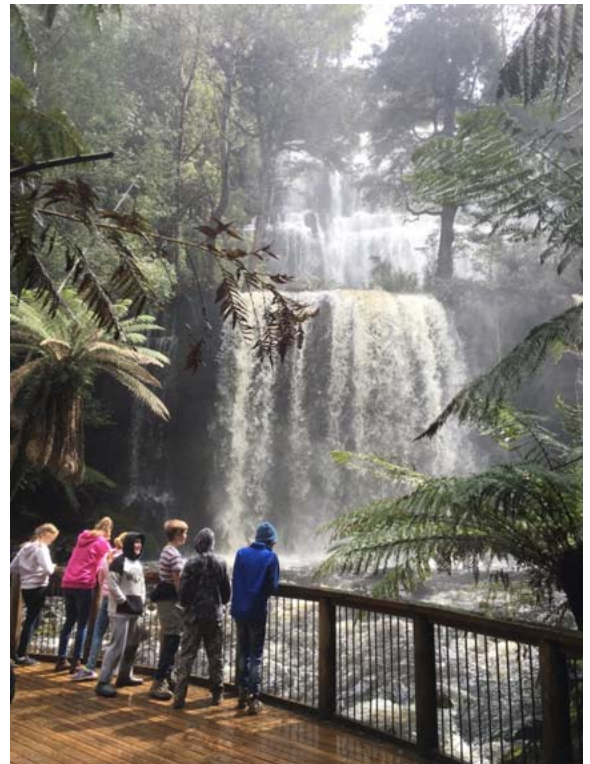
Southern Midlands Council and Rural Primary Health Services Senior's Week events.

It was on for young and old in October with two separate outings to Mt. Field National Park. A group of enthusiastic bushwalking and sightseeing seniors were the first to visit the park for one of our combined Southern Midlands Council and Rural Primary Health Services Senior's Week events. About 25 participants endured some fairly cool weather conditions for a day of picnics, camp-fires and walks through the rainforest to view the stunning waterfalls.



Southern Midlands Council and Rural Primary Health Services—Holiday Program

The following day we went back again, only with 36 juniors this time! This visit formed one of our regular school holiday program activities. Again the day was facilitated by the Southern Midlands Council and Rural Primary Health Services (RPHS) and this time we were also supported by the fabulous Rangers from Parks and Wildlife. The children were split into two age groups and enjoyed a fascinating guided-tour of the rainforest, visiting both the Russell and Horseshoe Falls. With all of the rain we had been experiencing the falls put on a brilliant show which for some of the children was the first time they had ever seen a waterfall. The children also enjoyed a wonderful, healthy picnic lunch – followed by a toasted marshmallow treat!



Victoria Memorial Hall -Kempton



The Brighton Green Ponds RSL sub-branch have recently taken over the management of the Victoria Memorial Hall at Kempton..

Please contact
Ken Clark or Kay Whitehouse for bookings etc
from the 1st November 2016

Contact Phone numbers
Ken Clark 62591216 or 0400 079255
Kay Whitehouse 62686545 or 0400 041911
during normal office hours.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT SHARED SERVICES

Councils' shared services nets \$1.2 million in savings

SHARING services saved seven Tasmanian councils more than \$1.2 million last financial year with the prospect of even greater savings in the current 12 months.

In 2015/16, Local Government Shared Services, an initiative of like-minded councils to share expertise and services under a formalised agreement, exchanged more than 14,000 hours of work between participating councils.

From the initial five Tasmanian councils the group has now grown to a total of 13 including five in the Northern Territory and Glamorgan Spring Bay on Tasmania's east coast recently agreeing to join.

Member councils are: Brighton, Central Highlands, Glenorchy, Glamorgan Spring Bay, Huon Valley, Sorell, **Southern Midlands**, Tasman, and in the Northern Territory: Coomalie, the City of Palmerston, Litchfield, Wagait and West Arnhem.

Local Government Shared Services (LGSS) Chairman Peter Murfett said following a 170 percent increase in participating councils over the past 12 months, further growth in membership as well as shared services was expected this year.

"As an example, 1410 hours of services were exchanged during August 2016, an increase of five percent on the previous month and well above the three-month average of 1263 hours a month," Mr Murfett said.

"Since the agreement became effective in April 2015, services have been exchanged covering the wide range of local government areas of responsibility from planning and asset management to finance and accounting, environmental health, rating, information technology and human resources.

"Since the inception of the initiative, we have seen a 66 percent increase in hours exchanged between participating councils with savings growing at a similar rate.

"Importantly, the costs associated with managing the operation are kept to a minimum with the LGSS administered by a committee of one representative from each participating council, an independent chairman, and a part-time chief administrator. There are no direct employee costs and member councils are only charged on a user-pays basis for time spent administering operations.

"Total administration costs last financial year were approximately \$35,000, just a three percent ratio when compared with the estimated net benefits received by participating councils of \$1.2 million.

"Undoubtedly we are looking to future growth as other councils seek to avail themselves of shared services."

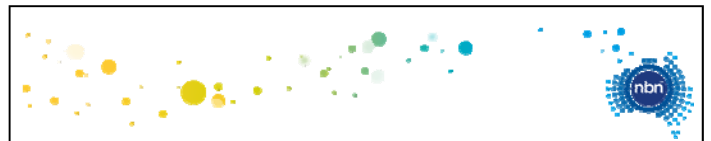
Mr Murfett said Local Government Shared Services was an affordable and great way for councils to provide and procure services for rate-payers at a fair rate leading to savings for all.

He said following the initiative's success, Tasmanian councils were now exchanging services with Northern Territory councils in the areas of information technology, video editing/production, and policy development, and opportunities were being developed for the provision of payroll, asset management and accountancy services.

"We are currently investigating a common cloud solution to be used as platform for common systems to maximise the opportunities for service exchange within the group.

"For the participating Tasmanian councils, Local Government Shared Services is in keeping with Local Government Minister Peter Gutwein's policy position that local government reform must be in the interest of ratepayers, improve services for the community, preserve and maintain local representation and ensure that the financial status of the Councils is strengthened.

"Importantly, participating councils have access to all the skills and experience within all the councils under agreed shared service arrangements, enabling them to better and more cost effectively meet the needs of their ratepayers," Mr Murfett said.



The nbn is now available in parts of the Southern Midlands

The nbn™ network is Australia's new phone and internet network, designed to provide fast and reliable phone and Internet services no matter where you live.

Recently the nbn switched on fixed wireless towers at Oatlands, Campania, and Parattah - bringing fast broadband to these communities.

Construction is also underway in the south with new towers servicing the communities in and around Kempton, Bagdad & Mangalore. These towers are planned to be ready for service before the end of 2016.

There is also good news for properties outside our major towns - the nbn™ Sky Muster™ satellite has recently been switched on.

Residents and business owners in all remote parts of the Southern Midlands can now place an order for faster internet over the nbn™ Sky Muster™ satellite.

How do I find out if I can connect to the nbn?

Check your address on the nbn website nbnco.com.au to find out if you can switch your services to the nbn now or register with nbn to receive updates.

Switching to the nbn™ network is not automatic

If the network is available to you, here's what you need to do: contact a phone or internet provider (you will see a list of providers for your area on the nbn website) and ask about switching your phone or internet to the nbn™ network.

For more information

For more information about the nbn visit nbnco.com.au or call nbn on 1800 687 626, 9am-5pm AEST Mon-Fri.

2016 Council Meeting Schedule

All Council Meetings commence at 10.00am | Public Consultation commences at 12.30pm

Council Meeting Wednesday, 23rd November 2016 Colebrook Hall

For the latest Council news visit:

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



OATLANDS SWIMMING POOL

The Municipal Swimming Pool in Campbell Street, Oatlands will be open for the 2016/17 season on Friday, 18th November 2016 at 3.00 p.m.

Opening Hours:-

During School Terms (Mon-Fri)	3.00 p.m. – 6.00 p.m.
School Holidays, Weekends & Public Holidays	11.00 a.m. – 6.00 p.m.
Christmas Day	Closed
New Years Day	Open



You can now have your Rates & Instalment Notices sent straight to your online mobile bank. You can view, pay and store your Rates securely and with the convenience of your mobile bank.

How BPAY View works

It only takes a few minutes to get started with BPAY View. Simply log on to your online or mobile bank to register. You can register using Councils Biller Code and your Payment Reference Number which is located on your current Rates Notice. (Please note: If you have more than one property you will need to register each property separately).

When a new Rate or Instalment Notice arrives, your financial institution will let you know* by email, SMS or bank message within your online or mobile bank.

With your bills and statements all in one place, it's easy to view, pay and store them at the click of a mouse or the swipe of a finger.

How to get started with BPAY View

- Check your bill
- Log on to your online banking
- Register
- Get confirmation
- And you're done!

Having problems?

If you're having trouble registering for BPAY View, check your online or mobile bank to find out the reason. The most common problems are entering the wrong details, or registering with more than one online or mobile bank. Make sure you've cancelled your BPAY View registration with any other financial institutions, and then try again. If you're still having problems, contact your financial institution.

* Notification options may vary by each financial institution. Contact your financial institution for further information.

** BPAY is accessible anywhere and anytime you have access to your online, mobile or phone bank.



TasWater has recently undertaken work in Colebrook, as part of its ongoing effort to improve the area's drinking water.

On 13 September, TasWater personnel were seen at the Yarlington Dam conducting a 'flocculation' project in an effort to clear the dam's water of sediment.

The Yarlington Dam has not been used for drinking water since July 2016. TasWater has instead been trucking water to the Smarts Hill Reservoir. Unfortunately, neither the reservoir nor the local water system are currently able to provide good quality drinking water. This is why Colebrook is one of 24 small towns around Tasmania for which TasWater has committed to provide improvements in drinking water within the next two years.

However, the high cost of trucking water to Colebrook has led TasWater to explore other options, one of these being an attempt to improve the water quality of the Yarlington Dam.

The Yarlington Dam has ongoing problems of turbidity, meaning the amount of sediment mixed through the water. Sediment is not just a visual issue. It can also contain micro-organisms and unwanted contaminants collected in run-off from nearby farmland chemicals, and make them difficult to remove. In modern water treatment plants, raw water is dosed with aluminium sulphate to remove sediment. This is a completely safe and normal procedure. The aluminium sulphate itself is not present in the drinking water. When introduced to Yarlington Dam it clumps around the sediment and drops to the bottom. This process is called flocculation, also known as "flocking".

During the flocculation, TasWater's workers wore safety suits, because when aluminium sulphate is used in its concentrated form it can cause injury on contact with skin or eyes.

At no time was there any danger to the community, livestock or the environment.

TasWater has apologised to the Colebrook community for not providing more information ahead of their work at the Yarlington Dam.

For the latest Council news visit:

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



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