



MAYOR'S REPORT

The Southern Midlands municipality has been well supported by State Government services in the past with schools, policing and hospital services i.e. the Midlands Multi Purpose Health Centre.

Regrettably, these services are coming under increased scrutiny with a view to either reduce or remove some of these services due to the State Government's severe budget problems.

It is even more regrettable that the reduction (or possible removal) of these services are occurring within rural and regional areas of Tasmania, and not so much in urban areas. The impact is indeed disproportionate.

The immediate concern is the State Government's announcement that many public schools will be forced to close if they fail a strict viability and sustainability test which has been proposed by the State Minister for Education and Skills, the Hon Nick McKim MP. This test has been developed by the School Viability Reference Group, set up as an advisory body to the Minister. Each school will have to self assess against a number of set criteria.

As a further impost upon these schools, the self assessment process will be on an annual basis and therefore use valuable time and resources of the schools, and continue the uncertainty and trauma of this ongoing saga. The Southern Midlands Council is most concerned that any of our two High Schools and three Primary Schools are potentially "in the firing line" for closure.

Your Council has responded in a very positive manner to this threat of school closures by establishing a Southern Midlands School Reference Group. This group includes representatives (Principals and School Association Presidents) from the five schools in the Southern Midlands Council area.

In November last year we made a presentation to the Ministerial School Viability Reference Group in Hobart where all the Southern Midlands Schools were represented. Since that time the report has been released and we can take no comfort from its findings and recommendations. The report did take on board some of our submissions and recommendations but the report overall gave little or no recognition to the fact that rural schools have a vital and pivotal role in those communities. To close schools would "rip the heart" out of any regional community.

How can we sustain our local communities

and encourage people to come and live and raise a family in a rural area without a local school? It is difficult in itself to entice people to leave urban areas or come and live and enjoy a rural lifestyle, but without a local school it would be almost impossible.

The Southern Midlands Council has committed considerable resources to this campaign by way of engaging a consultant, Mr Martin Farley, to assist in building our case and developing a positive response to the report.

Your Council is committed to ensuring that we do whatever is within our power and influence to keep all the public schools open in Southern Midlands. Your support, however made, will be most welcome to our campaign.

Tony Bisdee
Mayor OAM

Southern Midlands Council Strategic Plan Review 2012

The Local Government Act (1993) requires all Councils to have a Strategic Plan for the Municipal area. The Act also says that in preparing a strategic plan, or updating an existing strategic plan, a Council is to consult with the Community in its municipal area and any authorities and bodies it considers appropriate. The General Manager of the Council is to make a copy of a proposed strategic plan, or an updated strategic plan, available for public inspection at the public office of the Council during ordinary office hours.

Comment from the Community and other interested party is encouraged in the review of Council Strategic Plan. Public consultation sessions will be held in three locations commencing at 6.00pm on

15 March 2012 - Oatlands Council Chambers

19 March 2012 - Campania Community Memorial Hall

21 March 2012 - Bagdad Community Club

Further information and a copy of Council's current Strategic Plan is available at Council's website
www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au.

Interested contributors should forward comments to
smc@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au or PO Box 21 Oatlands
Tasmania 7120 on or before Wednesday 25 April 2012.

For information in relation to this consultation process, please contact Andrew Benson

Email: abenson@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au
or telephone 62 593 011.

Tim Kirkwood
General Manager

Free e-waste recycling for the Tasmanian Public



Do you have an old TV, computer, mobile phone, stereo, games console, etc? If so then you should be aware that the Tasmanian e-waste recycling event will occur on the weekend of the 17th and 18th March 2012. This important event will help divert e-waste from landfill and allow it to be dismantled, reprocessed and then used in the manufacture of new products.

The two sites in Southern Tasmania accepting e-waste on the 17th (Saturday) and 18th (Sunday) March 2012 are:

Glenorchy: Royal Show Grounds overflow car park; corner of Brooker Highway and Goodwood Road, Glenorchy (ie: opposite the Show Grounds); and

Kingston: Old Kingston High School car park; corner of Channel Highway and Freeman Street, Kingston.

The following types of e-waste <u>WILL</u> be accepted:	The following types of e-waste <u>WILL NOT</u> be accepted:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Entertainment equipment, including TV's (screens must not be broken), video recorders, DVD players, HI-FI equipment and stereos, digital cameras, video cameras; ✓ Computer equipment including PC's, laptops, monitors, mice, keyboards, cables, drives, and computer related peripherals; ✓ Home office equipment including printers, scanners and toners; ✓ Mobile phone handsets and chargers; and ✓ Electronic game consoles and accessories. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☒ Whitegoods, ovens, cooktops, vacuum cleaners, microwave ovens and other kitchen and household appliances; ☒ UPS units (uninterruptible power supplies), overhead projectors, ☒ Batteries except for computer batteries; ☒ Fluorescent lighting tubes and light "bulbs"; ☒ Any contaminated equipment or any type of hazardous waste.

Three other sites will also be operating around the state on the 17th and 18th of March, at: Launceston, Ulverstone and Burnie.

Further information on the free e-waste recycling event for Tasmania can be found at the e-waste Tasmania website:

www.ewastetas.com.au/production or follow the link from the Southern Midlands Council website: www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au

Enquiries can also be directed to Council's Development & Environmental Services Office,
Kempton, on (03) 6259 3011 or

Leon McGuinness Environmental Health Officer, Phone (03) 6259 3011 on Tuesdays and Thursdays

Southern Midlands Council , in conjunction with the Rural Primary Health Service at Oatlands and the "Connecting Families and School Communities " program again ran a very interesting and popular Youth School Holiday program during January 2012 .

Four full days of diverse recreational and educational activities were conducted , with approximately 140 young people attending the program from 11 townships spread far and wide throughout the Southern Midlands municipality .

Activities were as diverse as learning how to do airbrushing and cartooning , gym workouts at the Hobart PCYC , swimming and sliding through the Launceston Aquatic Centre and the Glenorchy Pool, as well as flying foxes ,making damper and bark huts and using the old fashioned plastic water slide at the local Woodfield Centre at Dysart.

All in all , the feedback from children and parents alike was very positive , with many of the young people experiencing a lot of these activities for the very first time .

Arrangements are in place to provide a similar program in the upcoming June school holidays , and plenty of advance notice will be provided to allow all willing young people to get their opportunity to participate .



Photo is a group shot outside the popular Launceston Aquatic Centre – Day 1 of the latest program .



Department of Justice & Workplace Standards

Advice to Owners and Occupiers of Commercial, Industrial and Public Buildings

Maintaining Essential Safety Features in Buildings – Are You Complying with the Law?

The *Building Act 2000* requires owners of **commercial, industrial and public buildings** to maintain the essential safety and health features and measures in their buildings. To comply, owners must arrange for regular inspections and maintenance of the safety features of the property. They must also display a certificate (a Form 56 Annual Maintenance Statement) on their premises.

Since 14 July 2006 all owners or occupiers have been required to display an annual Maintenance Statement near the entrance or in a similar prominent position in their building. For many owners the statement will shortly be due for its annual replacement.

- ⇒ Before the statement is replaced the owner should ensure that all safety features are in working order.
- ⇒ Failure to undertake the mandatory maintenance and to display the Annual Statement is an offence, and may also void the owner's insurance policy.

Buildings affected include:

- all shops, offices, factories, schools, blocks of flats or apartments, hotels and nightclubs, cafés, tourist accommodation; and
- all workplaces or buildings where the public has access;

Essential safety and health features and measures include (but are not limited to):

- fire and smoke detectors, fire fighting equipment;
- exit doors and exit signs, emergency lighting, fire escapes;
- smoke alarms and warning systems; and
- emergency evacuation plans

- **This does not include ordinary residential dwellings.**

If you are unsure about whether the laws apply to your building, or have any enquiries about how to comply with your maintenance obligations, please contact Council's building department .

Details of the maintenance requirements may also be obtained by visiting the Workplace Standards Tasmania Web-site at www.wst.tas.gov.au/building, and downloading brochure number GB160, or contact the Workplace Standards Tasmania Helpline:

Local rate: 1300 366 322 (Inside Tasmania)

Fax: (03) 6233 8338

Email: wstinfo@justice.tas.gov.au

ROAD SAFETY TIPS FOR THE EASTER WEEKEND

The Southern Midlands Community Road Safety Partnership is urging drivers to play it safe over the Easter holiday period, issuing the following safe driving tips:-



- Plan how you will get home if you have been drinking
- Drive at safe speeds that suit the road and weather conditions
- Take safety breaks every 2 hours or 200km
- Only overtake when it is absolutely safe to do so
- Be visible – drive with your lights on
- Always wear your seat belt and check to see that everyone in the car is wearing theirs.

Share these suggestions with your family and friends – And may you and your family have a happy and safe Easter.



COAL RIVER NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH - HELPING TO MAKE THE COAL VALLEY SAFER

The next meeting May 17th at 7.00pm at the Campania War Memorial Hall
Come and have your say about issues such as safety, vandalism or theft that affect us. Southern Midlands Council and Tas Police representatives are usually in attendance to provide immediate feedback on these and any other issues of importance to you.

All residents of the greater Coal River Valley area are welcome.

Chris Adams, Co-ordinator

0408 335585



Rural Primary Health Services

Would like to invite any interested community members to attend a **FREE**



Australian Red Cross
THE POWER OF HUMANITY

First Aid Training Courses

Basic First Aid (One Day)		
Tunnack Club	Wed—21 March	9.30 am to 5.00 pm
Levendale School	Wed - 4 April	9.30 am to 5.00 pm
Kempton Hall	Wed - 18 April	9.30 am to 5.00 pm
Colebrook Tavern	Mon - 30 April	9.30 am to 5.00 pm

Apply First Aid (Two Days)		
Community Health Centre—Oatlands	Wed - 9 May Thur - 10 May	9.30am –to 5.00 pm

LUNCH PROVIDED

Numbers are limited therefore bookings are essential phone

RPHS Admin 6254 5025 for bookings

or

Karla on 6254 5010 Mobile 0438 343 973

Council's Recycling and Garbage Collection Service

Council offers a weekly or fortnightly recycling and garbage collection service to most parts of the Southern Midlands.

The garbage collection service uses mobile garbage bins (MGBs) or wheelie bins. All waste that cannot be recycled should be disposed of into the wheelie bin which then should be placed at the kerb/roadside, with the wheels inwards, on the night before collection day.

Council's recycling collection service uses an open crate, and although some other Councils now use wheelie bins for their recycling service, it is considered that at this time, the recycling service using the crate represents value for money for ratepayers and the Council, whilst providing a good quality service.

The following items are able to be recycled:



- ✓ Glass Containers
- ✓ Aluminium Cans;
- ✓ Steel Cans;
- ✓ Milk and Juice Cartons (liquid paperboard);
- ✓ Plastic Bottles;
- ✓ Paper and Cardboard ("bundled/tied").

All containers should be rinsed, and the recycling crate should be placed out for collection, beside the wheelie bin, on the evening before collection day.

To reduce the likelihood of recyclable items being blown out of recycling crates, the following advice is provided to users of Council's kerbside recycling service:

- ✓ Ensure newspaper, cardboard, etc. is tied/bundled together;
- ✓ Ensure lightweight items such as plastic bottles are placed at the bottom of the crate, with heavier items (eg: glass containers) on top, so as to reduce the likelihood of items blowing out of the recycling crate; and
- ✓ Squash aluminium cans so that as well as taking up less room and reducing the likelihood of items overflowing, that they are more compact and thus less likely to be blown around.

Enquiries regarding garbage and recycling collection service should be directed to Council's Environmental Health Officer, Leon McGuinness on Tuesdays and Thursdays at its Development & Environmental Services Office, Kempton, phone (03) 6259 3011.

CLIMATE CHANGE LOTS OF SMALL ACTIONS WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Personal and community action to address the threat of climate change can often seem frustratingly slow given the urgency of the threat. Slowness or reluctance to take personal action on climate change can be for a number of reasons including:

- Being unsure of the facts on climate change. There is often not a clear and consistent channel of information from scientists to the community. Facts can often be lost in translation through the media cycle or conflicting political agendas.
- Complacency – a sense that the problem is elsewhere or some time in the future and that others will solve the problem anyway.
- Fear of change – the scale of the problem and its potential local effects can be overwhelming. This can lead to a sense of denial that there is a problem.
- Powerlessness – feeling that personal actions are unimportant, insignificant or will make no difference.

Part of Southern Midlands Council's approach to climate change is to address the barriers people may have to taking action by providing information through community meetings, supporting residents in energy

efficiency projects, and offering incentives to begin the process of change.

Despite these initiatives, how do we track how we are progressing as a community and how do we engage more people in taking action? The 'One Person Can' project can help. By logging on to the web site www.onepersoncan.org and taking the 'One Person Can' survey we can get a better picture of how many people across the Southern Midlands, across the State or across the country, are getting involved in a broad range of actions, small and large, to tackle climate change.

The 'One Person Can' project highlights that individual actions, no matter how small, can amount to something collectively significant and importantly foster a sense that you are not acting in isolation.

For information on what's going on 'climate wise' in the Southern Midlands follow the link from the Southern Midlands home page www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au to the climate change pages, or contact:

Graham Green
62545048

ggreen@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au



The interpretive guided walks program starts again in Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary at Bagdad on Sunday 4th March 2012.

Come and join the guide to wander the bush tracks and listen to the stories of Chauncy Vale. View the sandstone caves and cliffs which provided inspiration for Nan Chauncy's children's book *They Found A Cave*. Enjoy a BYO picnic lunch and then tour Nan's home, Day Dawn cottage where she wrote her award winning books.

Walk details: The walk length is approximately one and a half hours. There are two creek crossings and some steep and uneven sections.

Date and Time: Sunday 4th March starting at 10.30 am.

Future walks: Sunday 1st April and Sunday 6th May

Cost: Only \$5 per person

Bookings are essential:



Phone Chauncy Vale caretaker on 62 686365 by the Friday before the walk date.

Bring:

Bushwalking footwear, sunhat, sunscreen, raincoat, jumper, lunch and a drink.

For more information:

Check the website www.chauncyvale.com.au or phone 62 686365

⇒ Heart Foundation Heartmoves is a gentle physical activity program suitable for anyone who hasn't done any exercise for a while.

⇒ Heartmoves is designed to be safe for people with health conditions like heart disease, diabetes and bone or joint problems.


Helping all Australians stay active for life

WHEN: Commencing **TUESDAY MARCH 13th @ 2.00pm**

COST: \$5.00 - 45 minute class

WHERE: Brighton Community Health Centre
27 Greenpoint Road Bridgewater

FOR BOOKINGS PLEASE CONTACT
ANDREA
PH: 0439 938 403



www.southerntazpilates.com.au

Council Meetings 2012

Date	Venue
28 th March 2012	Tunnack Community Club
24 th April 2012	Bagdad Community Club
23 rd May 2012	Council Office Kempton

**All meetings start at 10.00 a.m.
with Public consultation at 12.30 p.m.**



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 staff 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 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 drink.

How to contact us!

Head Office: Oatlands

Monday-Friday 9.00 am to 4.30 pm

Corporate Services

ie rates, administration

03 6254 5000

Landcare Unit 03 6254 5046
Works Dept. 03 6254 5007

71 High Street, Oatlands

Postal Address:

PO Box 21, Oatlands Tasmania 7120

Facsimile 03 6254 5014

mail@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au

Tourism & Recreation Facilities

Heritage Highway Visitor Centre
1 Mill Lane, Oatlands

03 6254 1212

Oatlands Swimming Pool

Campbell Street, Oatlands

03 6254 5024

Development & Environmental Services: Planning, Building, Health, Animal Control

85 Main Street, Kempton

03 6259 3011

Facsimile 03 6259 1327

Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary

Chauncy Vale Road, Bagdad
Tasmania 7030

Caretakers Cottage 03 62686365

AFTER HOURS EMERGENCY SERVICE

0419 325 405

www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au

Elected Members:

Mayor Tony Bisdee O.A.M.

Ph: 6259 1128

Fax: 6259 1418

Mobile: 0418 355158

Email: tonybisdee@bigpond.au

Deputy Mayor

Mark Jones O.A.M.

Ph: 6254 0074

Fax: 6254 0074

Mobile: 0408 298 347

Clr Tony Bantick

Ph: 62686277

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Email tony@4one4.com.au

Clr Colin Beven

Ph: 6260 4157

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Clr Bob Campbell

Ph: 6255 5232

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Clr Don Fish

Ph: 6255 5157

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Clr John Jones O.A.M.

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Mobile: 0418 121163

Email: jones.ent1@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