



ANNUAL REPORT

2010-11



Southern Midlands Council

Our Vision

The following vision for the Southern Midlands municipal area was developed by Councillors on the basis of the information and advice provided at community meetings.

- A community spirit based on friendliness, co-operation and self help;
- An environment which encourages local creativity, enterprise and self help;
- A diversified local economy creating employment opportunities through sustainable agriculture, heritage tourism, forestry, and viable historic towns/service centres;
- Development based on the proper management of local resources and the physical environment;
- A range and standard of services within the Southern Midlands which meet local needs and are affordable and efficient.

Our Mission

The Mission for the corporation of Council identifies the roles and purpose of the Council. The mission was developed by Councillors and senior staff. The Council in partnership with the community will:

- Work for the benefit of the community;
- Be forward looking and provide leadership;
- Operate as a team of Councillors and staff focused upon performance;
- Be financially responsible.

Our Guiding Principles

The following principles or philosophies represent the beliefs and values which will guide the culture of the organisation and underpin its work towards achieving the vision and mission. Council and staff will:

- Consult and listen to our customers and employees by maintaining open communication;
- Treat people with respect and courtesy;
- Give advice to the best of our professional ability;
- Be sensitive to the needs of residents;
- Respond promptly to customers concerns and requests;
- Be fair, equitable and consistent in decisions and conduct;
- Fully utilise the expertise and resources available to Council within the organisation and the community;
- Develop the full potential of Councillors and staff;
- Operate in accordance with the "Code of Conduct" adopted by Council.

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Kempton Blue Place

Introduction

The Year in Review – Mayor Anthony E Bisdee OAM

It is again my pleasure to present the Annual Report for the 2010/2011 period.

During this period the Southern Midlands Council moved forward with its support for the development of infrastructure, heritage projects and community facilities. There were however challenges including considerable flood damage to our rural roads due to a much wetter than normal autumn and winter. Long term financial sustainability and the issue of proposed council amalgamations continue to be of concern.

One of the major advances for the Southern Midlands has been the work undertaken by the Tasmanian Irrigation Development Board (TIDB) on the Midlands Water Scheme. The Board sought a commitment from land owners to take up water rights. It was pleasing to see the very positive response from land owners to the initial rights offer. I am confident the Scheme, following further commercial investment, will proceed to the construction stage. The Scheme will be the largest capital program ever undertaken in the Midlands (\$80 million) and ensure the future sustainability of agriculture in the area.

The opening of the iconic Callington Mill in October 2010 was a highlight of the financial year and demonstrated the importance of heritage projects to the development of the Southern Midlands. This grand mill stood idle for 110 years and has now been restored to full flour milling operations. I wish to acknowledge and thank the State and Australian Governments for each providing \$1.2 million towards the project. Funding and in-kind support was also provided by the Southern Midlands Council.

Congratulations to the large team of builders, contractors and council staff who completed this important project. I especially acknowledge the work of millwright Mr Neil Medcalf who built the mill machinery in England and then assembled the machinery on site to make the mill operational.

The restored Callington Mill has already attracted many thousands of tourists making a significant contribution to the viability of historic Oatlands. The Mill is now a major tourist attraction for Tasmania providing employment for local community members.

Work commenced on the Gaolers Residence in Oatlands to restore and protect this important heritage building. This is a major reconstruction project and the outcome will be another tourist attraction to enhance the heritage experience for visitors.

Introduction

The Year in Review – Mayor Anthony E Bisdee OAM

I acknowledge and thank the former Premier David Bartlett for his support of the project and facilitating \$500,000 in State Government funding. It is anticipated the Gaolers Residence will be completed in early 2012.

I especially wish to commend our Heritage Projects Officer, Mr Brad Williams for the professional and quality restoration work he is managing on behalf of the Council and Oatlands Community.

The development of community facilities continued during 2010/2011 and highlights include-

- The Australian Government stimulus package allowed significant building redevelopment and refurbishment to take place at all our school campuses.
- The commencement of the Midlands Multi Purpose Health Centre's new Palliative Care unit is a wonderful project for the wider community. Council is closely involved with the project providing funding and in-kind contributions.
- Work commenced on the new Community House project to provide a permanent home for the Bargain Centre, MILE Inc. and a number of other community volunteer organisations.
- Construction of a new bike track in Kempton proved to be very popular. More bike tracks are planned for other areas of the Southern Midlands.
- Arena facilities were upgraded at the Mangalore pony recreational area. This arena is proving popular with horse and pony Clubs and is an important recreational facility.
- The new \$5 million plus University of Tasmania (UTAS) Optical Observatory at Spring Hill, Jericho is major private development for the Southern Midlands.

In conjunction with the development of community facilities the Council is focused on the maintenance and development of road infrastructure. Roads sustained considerable damage in past financial year due to heavy rainfall events. Council staff endeavoured to repair many areas however further repair work needs to be completed. The workforce will attend to all damaged areas as resources and priorities permit.

Introduction

The Year in Review – Mayor Anthony E Bisdee OAM

A number of bridges have been replaced during the past year as part of a long term bridge replacement program. A major replacement project is the bridge over the Jordan River at Broadmarsh. Design work has been undertaken and bridge replacement works are planned for the forthcoming financial year.

The Southern Midlands Council remains financially viable and continues to meet its operational and priority capital project obligations. However, yet again we, along with most other rural councils in Tasmania, have been criticised in the Auditor General's report for not funding 100% of its depreciation expense. The Council currently provides for approximately 66% of our depreciation liability. While this is less than full provision, to fund 100% depreciation would require a massive increase in the general rate. Councillors have adopted a financial strategy to address this issue and will gradually increase the provision for depreciation within financial constraints.

I foresee a period of restricted growth due to fiscal constraints being implemented by both State and Australian Governments. This will impact on Council as grants may not be as readily available for the development of community and infrastructure projects.

However, we certainly have a full program of works scheduled for the forthcoming year, to be financed from our general rates.

During the past year, a campaign by several industry interest groups to promote reform and amalgamation of local government councils (especially in Southern Tasmania) started to evolve. To confront the campaign, the Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority (STCA) applied and received a \$150,000 Australian Government grant to undertake an independent study into reform of local councils in Southern Tasmania. The study report will provide recommendations to restructure councils to provide greater efficiencies in service delivery and administration.

While the study report will no doubt focus on the urban areas of Southern Tasmania it will be interesting to see what is recommended in relation to rural Councils. Your Councillors are unanimous in their resolve for the Southern Midlands to remain a rural entity and not be joined (and dominated) by a large urban Council.

While this position may be seen by some as protecting our patch – we firmly believe that rural communities have special needs and wish to retain local government as “LOCAL” and not urban or regional structures to administer local governance.

Introduction

The Year in Review – Mayor Anthony E Bisdee OAM

The Southern Midlands Council will continue to campaign for the protection of rural communities and rural lifestyles. The Council will also seek where possible to ensure a more beneficial financial outcome for rural and regional areas of Tasmania.

I wish to thank my fellow Councillors, General Manager Tim Kirkwood and all staff at the Southern Midlands Council for their continued dedication, hard work and support towards the efficient and responsible operation of your local Council.

On behalf of myself and wife Sue, my fellow Councillors and all the staff of the Southern Midlands Council I extend to everyone the compliments of the season and wish you a happy and safe Christmas and a prosperous new year.

Clr Tony Bisdee OAM
Mayor

Overview

General Manager – Tim Kirkwood



This Annual Report is one of four major documents produced by Council each year to ensure public accountability. They are the:

- Strategic Plan;
- Annual Operational Plan;
- Annual Budget; and
- Annual Report and Financial Statement.

All of these documents are available to the public.

The *Local Government Act 1993* requires Council to provide a summary of the Operational Plan for the year including performance in respect of targets set for the period.

The following section of the Annual Report details the key achievements during the 2010-11 reporting period.

Whilst preparation of the Annual Report can be a time consuming exercise, it is highly gratifying to document the achievements that have been made during the reporting period. It is an ideal time to refocus on the various strategies and actions that have been developed through extensive consultation with a range of stakeholders, all of which aim to improve and enhance our community and lifestyle.

The format of the Annual Report is consistent with the respective Strategic Themes contained in Council's Strategic Plan:

- Infrastructure
- Growth
- Landscapes
- Lifestyle
- Community; and
- Organisation.

Overview

General Manager – Tim Kirkwood

In closing, I wish to thank the Mayor and Councillors for their support during the year and I wish to acknowledge and express my appreciation to all employees for their commitment, dedication and assistance which has been provided in a professional, efficient and timely manner.







Tim Kirkwood
General Manager

Council Committee Structure

THE COUNCILLORS	Council & Committee Membership
 <p>Mayor Tony E Bisdee OAM "Kelstock" Melton Mowbray Ph. 62 591 128</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Council ◆ Australia Day Awards (Chair) ◆ Callington Mill Steering Committee (Chair) ◆ Enterprise Bargaining / Award Consultative Committee (Chair) ◆ Little Swanport Water Management Plan Committee (Proxy) ◆ Southern Tasmania Council Association ◆ Southern Tasmania Weeds Strategy Steering Committee (Chair) ◆ Tunnack Recreation Ground Management Committee (Chair) ◆ Southern Tasmania Water & Sewerage Corporation – Owners Representatives Committee (proxy)
 <p>Deputy Mayor John L Jones OAM "Grangeside House" 27 Main Road Kempton Ph. 62 591 223</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Council ◆ Australia Day Awards (Proxy) ◆ Blue Place Management Committee (Proxy) ◆ Callington Mill Steering Committee (Proxy) ◆ Enterprise Bargaining / Award Consultative Committee (Proxy) ◆ Jordan Area Fire Management Committee (Proxy) ◆ Oatlands Recreation Ground Management Committee (Proxy) ◆ Southern Midlands Heritage Project Steering Committee ◆ Southern Midlands Recreation Committee (Proxy) ◆ Southern Tasmania Council Association (Proxy) ◆ Southern Waste Strategy Authority (Proxy) ◆ Woodsdale Hall Management Committee (Proxy) ◆ Kempton Streetscape Committee ◆ Oatlands Court House/ Gaol Working Group ◆ Rural Alive and Well Inc. (Chair)

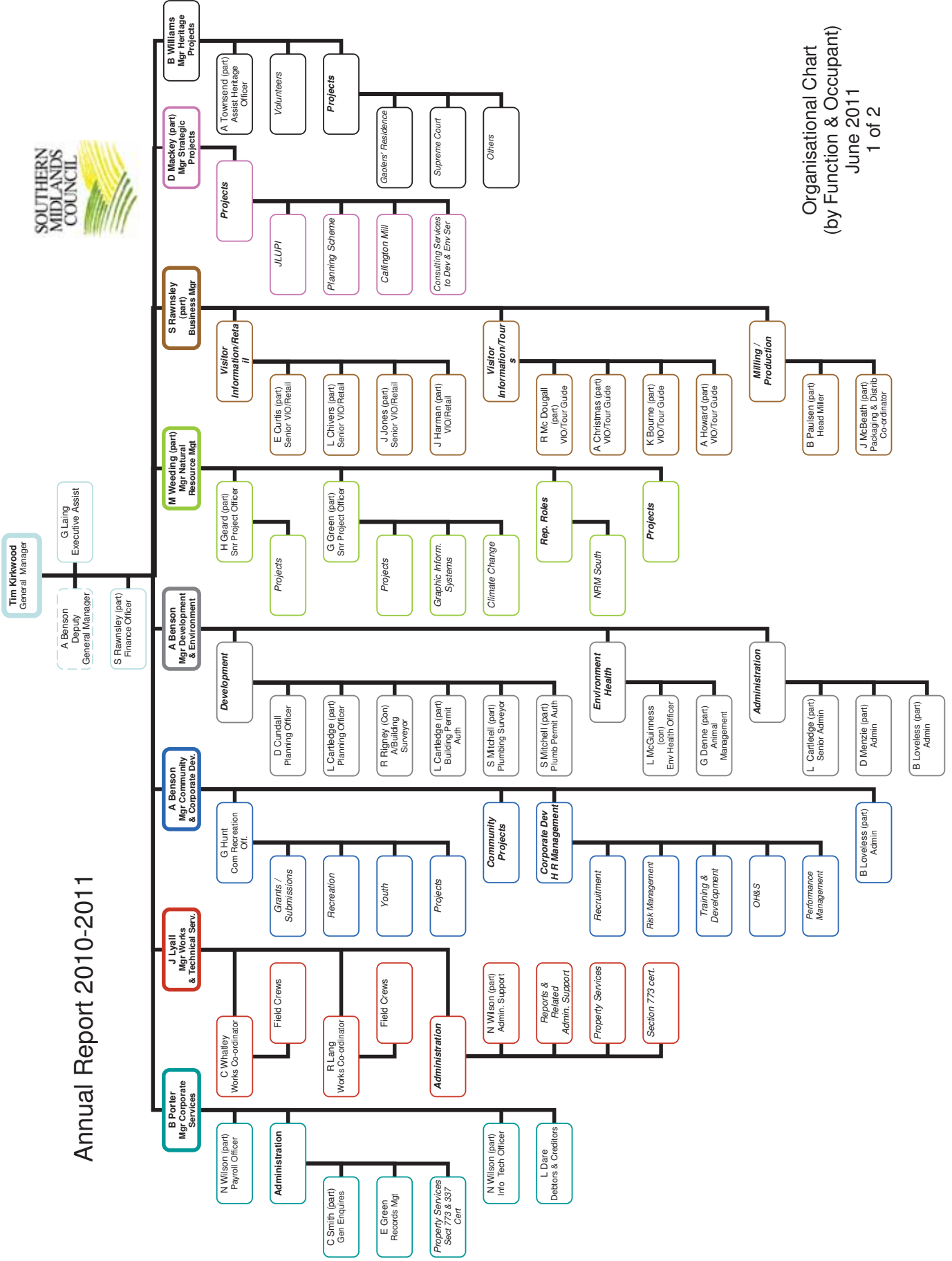
Council Committee Structure

 <p>Clr. Colin J. Beven Hall Street Campania Ph. 62 604 157</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Council ◆ Access Committee ◆ Campania Halls Management Committee ◆ Campania Recreation Ground Management Committee (Chair) ◆ Colebrook Hall Committee (Chair) ◆ Parattah Railway Restoration Management Committee (Proxy) ◆ Southern Midlands Recreation Committee (Chair)
 <p>Clr Bob Campbell Inglewood Road, Andover Ph. 62 555 232</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Council ◆ Heritage Centre Management Committee (Proxy) ◆ Little Swanport Catchment Committee (Proxy) ◆ Mt Pleasant Recreation Ground Management Committee ◆ New Pool Project Steering Committee (Proxy) ◆ Oatlands Spring Festival Management Committee (Proxy) ◆ Parattah Progress Association (Proxy)
 <p>Clr Marie J. Connors 5 Erskine Street Kempton Ph. 62 593 095</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Council ◆ Chauncy Vale Management Committee (Proxy) ◆ Community Advisory Committee (MMPHC) (Proxy) ◆ Southern Midlands Heritage Project Steering Committee (Proxy) ◆ Southern Midlands Recreation Committee ◆ Tunnack Recreation Ground Management Committee
 <p>Clr Donald F. Fish "Ashgrove" 766 Inglewood Road Andover Ph. 62 555 157</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Council ◆ Dulverton Area Fire Management Committee ◆ Lake Dulverton / Callington Park Management Committee (Chair) ◆ Oatlands Community Hall Management Committee ◆ Oatlands Recreation Ground Management Committee ◆ Oatlands Spring Festival Management Committee ◆ Parattah Progress Association ◆ Parattah Railway Restoration Management Committee ◆ Southern Midlands Recreation Management Committee ◆ Municipal Disaster Management Committee (Emergency Management Planning Committee) (Proxy) ◆ Oatlands Community Men's Shed (proxy)

Council Committee Structure

 <p>Clr Alexander O. Green "Wattlebanks" 248 White Kangaroo Road Campania Ph. 62 604 153</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Council ◆ Campania Halls Management Committee (Proxy) ◆ Campania Recreation Ground Management Committee (Proxy) ◆ Chauncy Vale Management Committee (Chair) ◆ Colebrook Halls Committee (Proxy) ◆ Coal River Area Fire Management Committee (Proxy) ◆ Dulverton Area Fire Management Committee (Proxy) ◆ Heritage Centre Management Committee (Chair) ◆ Southern Waste Strategy Authority from November 2009
 <p>Clr Mark Jones OAM 74 Esplanade Oatlands Ph. 62 540 074</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Council ◆ Lake Dulverton / Callington Park Management Committee (Proxy) ◆ Municipal Disaster Management Committee (Emergency Management Planning Committee) ◆ New Pool Project Steering Committee ◆ Oatlands Community Men's Shed
 <p>Clr H M Scott OAM 2476 Woodsdale Road Woodsdale Ph. 62 546 153</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Council ◆ Access Committee (Proxy) ◆ Community Advisory Committee (MMPHC) ◆ Little Swanport Catchment Committee ◆ Little Swanport Water Management Plan Committee ◆ Oatlands Community Hall Management Committee (Proxy) ◆ Southern Midlands Recreation Committee ◆ Recreation Ground Management Committee (Proxy) ◆ Woodsdale Hall Management Committee

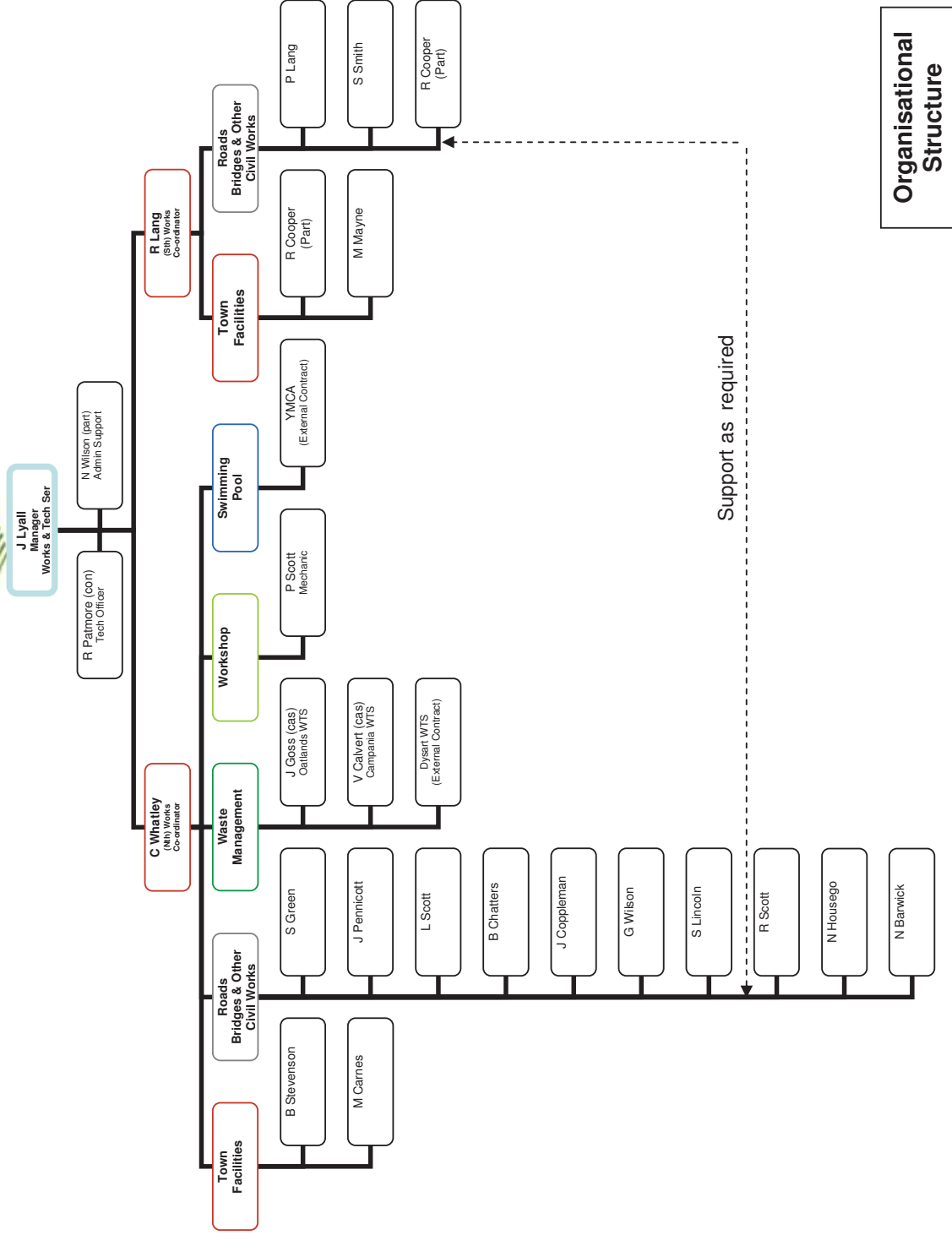
Annual Report 2010-2011



Organisational Chart
(by Function & Occupant)
June 2011
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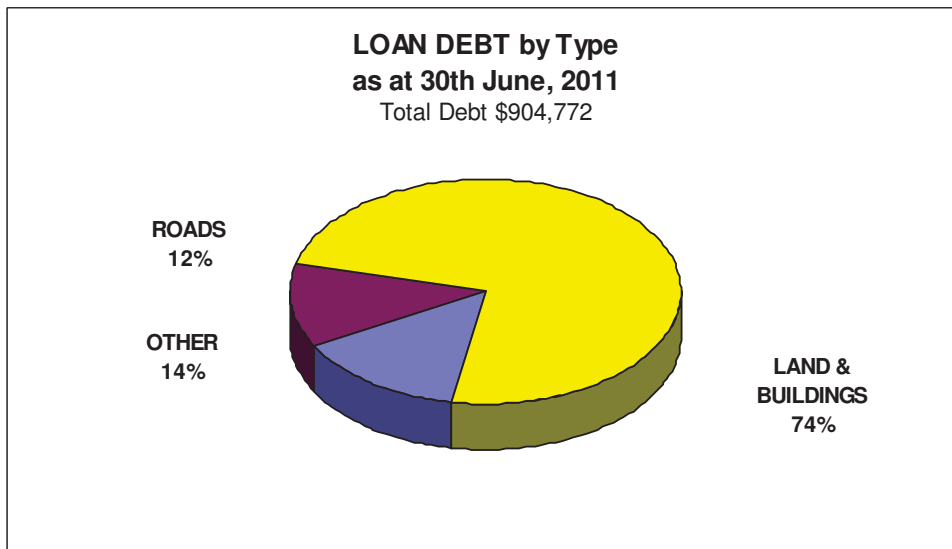
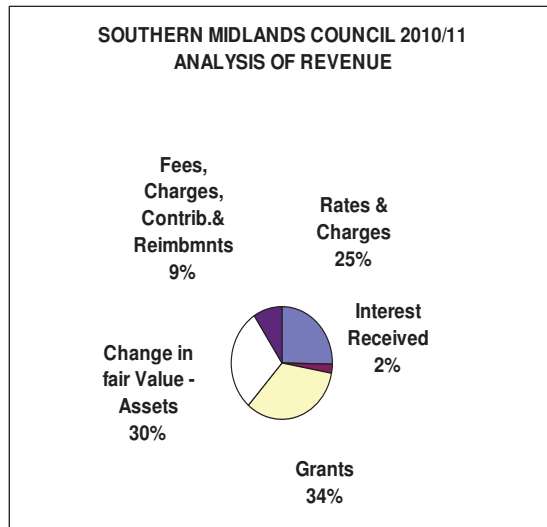
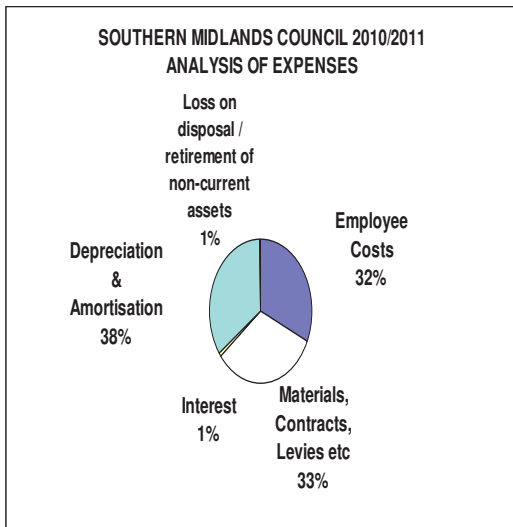


Annual Report 2010-2011



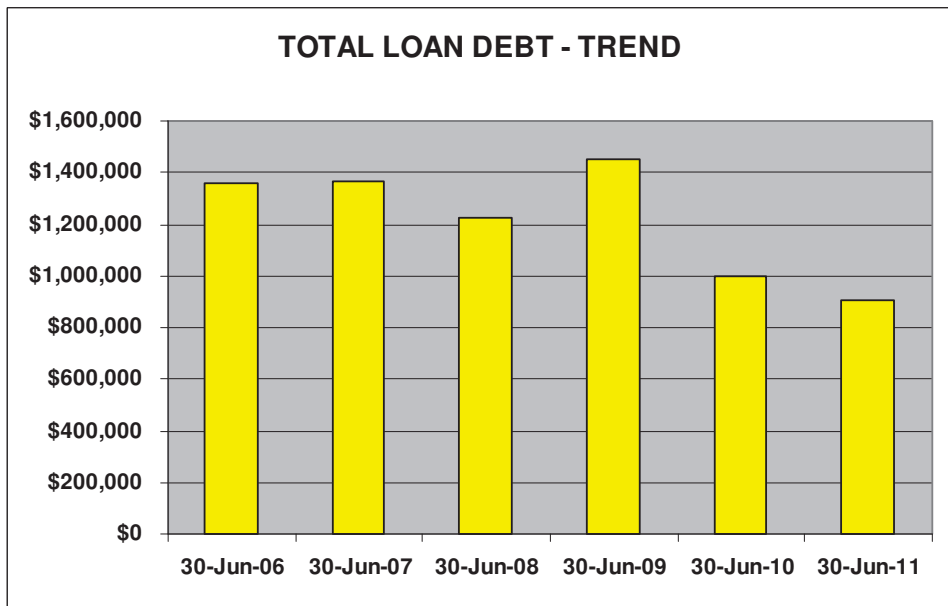
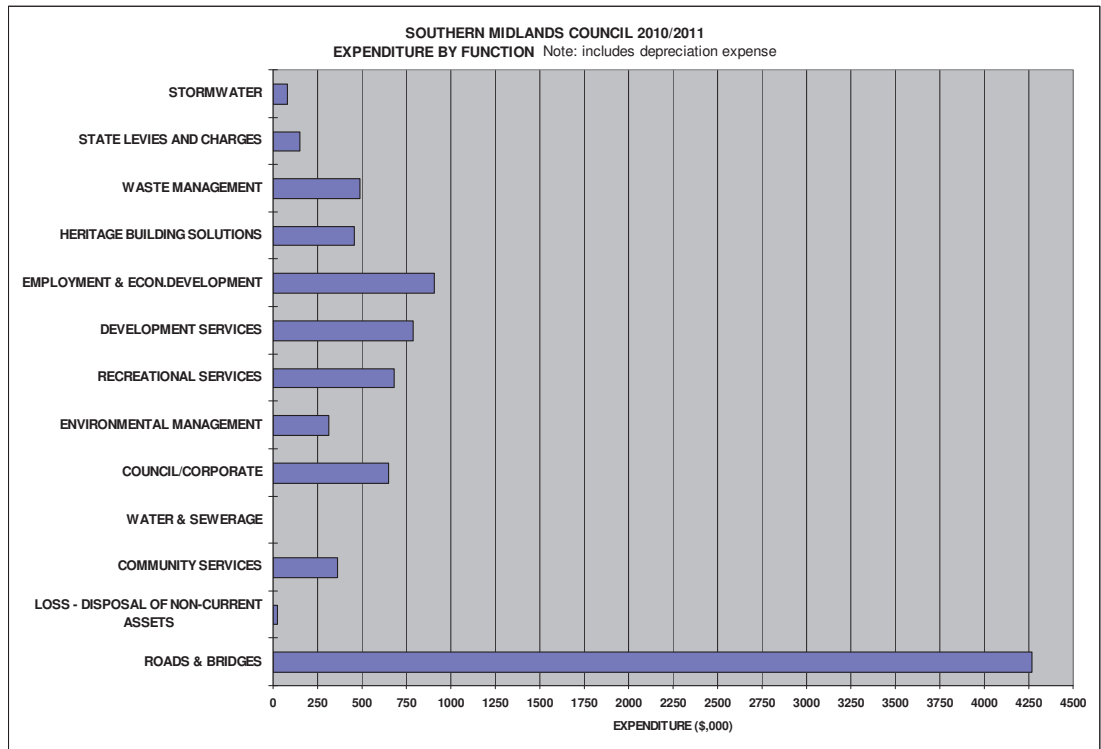
Organisational Structure

Statistics

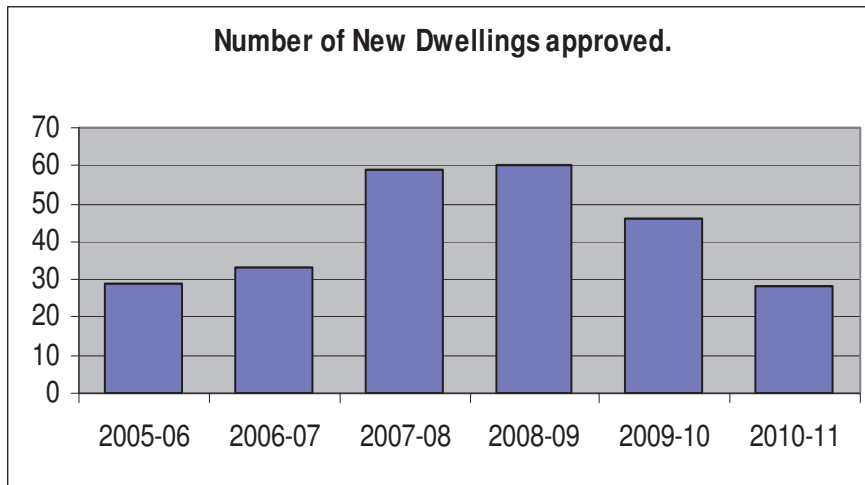




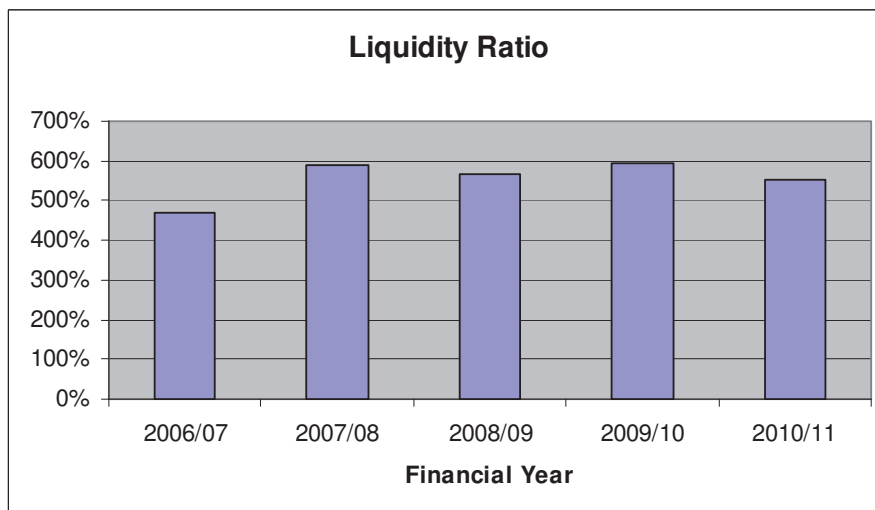
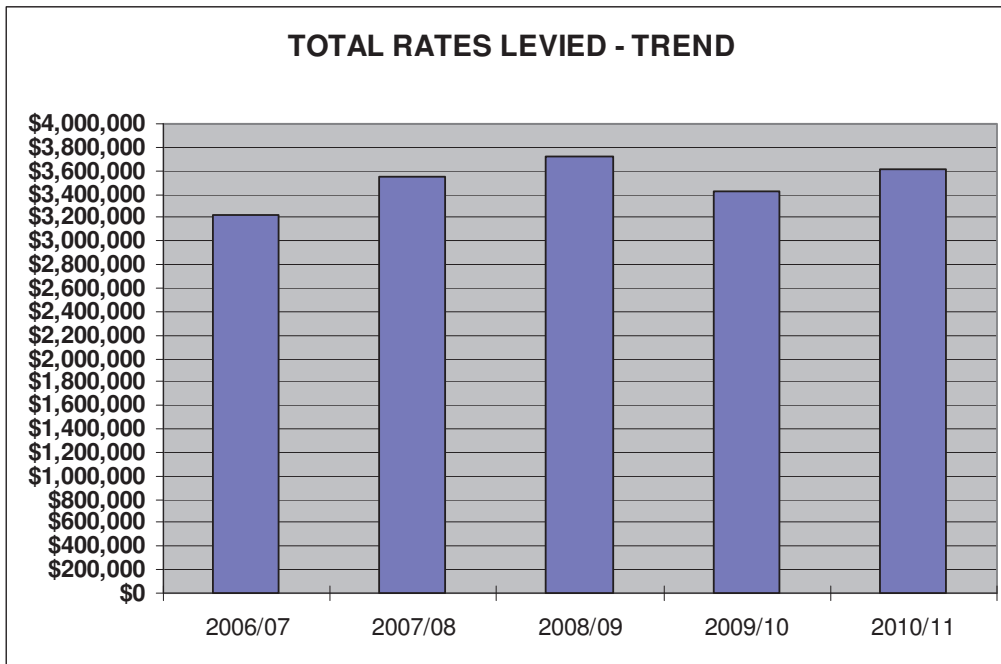
Statistics



Statistics



Statistics



Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: INFRASTRUCTURE

2010-11 Achievements

2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan
Over the next five years Council will:

Roads

- Maintenance and improvement of the standard and safety of roads in the municipal area.

Key Strategies and actions:

- Continue to seek opportunities to increase funding for road maintenance and construction from Commonwealth and State Governments.
- Seek new, cost effective sources of road materials suitable for road maintenance.
- Continue to work with the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources to improve the safety of the Midland Highway.
- Continue to focus on road drainage and road widening as key elements of road maintenance.
- Ensure that appropriate sight distances are maintained for key transport routes, through effective roadside vegetation management / road realignment.
- Continue a program of regular safety audits of roads.
- In partnership with the State Government examine the issue of reserved roads and their impact on fire and weed management.
- In partnership with the community and the State Government, undertake highway beautification works, noise attenuation mounding and the development of a walkway path, for the township of Kempton.
- Continue to work with the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources to improve the safety of junctions with State maintained roads.

Approximately \$1,026,000 (excluding depreciation) was expended on the maintenance of roads within the municipal area.

Capital expenditure totaled \$1,074,000 which included:

- \$387K on resheeting unsealed roads;
- \$241K on resealing roads;
- \$280K on the construction and extension of pavement seals – Grices Road, Native Corners Road and Shene Road.
- \$165K on corner realignment to improve sight distances – Cockatoo Gully Road, Green Valley Road and Hardwicks Road.

Council continues to work with the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources (DIER) to address a number of road safety issues, and undertake other initiatives aimed at improving both state and local road networks.

A number of projects were nominated for funding under the Nation Building Back Spot Program. An allocation of \$10,000 was approved for the installation of safety barrier on a section of Green Valley Road.

In September 2010, Council signed the formal Partnership Agreement between the State Government and the participating Councils relating to the future of the Midland Highway. Councils included: Clarence City, Glenorchy City, Hobart City, Launceston City, Northern Midlands and Southern Midlands Councils.

The Australian Government has legislated to extend the Roads to Recovery Program through to the end of 2012-13. This provides an additional annual grant that Council can utilise for road and bridge construction projects.

Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: INFRASTRUCTURE

2010-11 Achievements

2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan
Over the next five years Council will:

Bridges

- Maintenance and improvement of the standard and safety of bridges in the municipality.

Key Strategies and actions:

- Continue the current program of bridge maintenance, including the monitoring and consideration of new construction methods for the replacement of timber bridges, including Council's desire to replace timber bridges with concrete bridges.

Approximately \$156,000 (excluding depreciation) was expended on the maintenance of bridges within the municipal area. This included considerable costs associated with the loss of three bridges due to flooding and the need to construct temporary crossings – Jordon River - Andersons Road and Jones Road, Elderslie & Little Swanport River – Swanston Road.

A total of \$214,000 was expended on capital renewals, which included:

- York Plains Road (Tin Dish Rivulet) Bridge - \$122,600
- Wilsons Road (Bagdad Rivulet) Bridge - \$81,500

The Southern Midlands Council continues to engage AusSpan to undertake six-monthly inspections of all its bridge assets on an ongoing basis. These inspections provide Council with forward maintenance and capital works programs on a priority basis.



Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: INFRASTRUCTURE

2010-11 Achievements

2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan
Over the next five years Council will:

Walkways & Trails

- Maintenance and improvement of the standard and safety of walkways and pedestrian areas.

Footpath improvements in School Road, Bagdad at a cost of \$18,000.

Key Strategies and actions:

- Prepare a forward capital upgrade program for existing walkways and pedestrian areas.
- Determine priorities for extensions to existing walkways and pedestrian areas.
- Identify and develop new cycleways, walkways and pedestrian areas.
- Develop a Trails Strategy for the Southern Midlands.

The Hawthorn Bay section of Dulverton Walkway was developed in 2010-11. Volunteers planted approximately 220 trees along sections of the track. A further 300 Poa grasses and 300 Tussocks were planted on some fragile soil banks.

Fencing along the track occurred for landholdings at Hawthorn Bay through to Bellevue on Tunnack Road. Pipes were installed at 4 culvert crossings on the track, only to be severely damaged some days later with an unexpected extreme flooding event on 7th & 8th June.

Funding to complete the track was secured with two grants, one from Sport & Recreation (Tasmanian Govt) \$35,370; and one from the RLCIP program (Australian Govt) \$25,000. A completion date is set for late 2011.



Hutchins School students, Volunteers and Council Team Members working on the Dulverton Corridor Walking Track between Oatlands & Parattah

Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: INFRASTRUCTURE

2010-11 Achievements

2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan
Over the next five years Council will:

Lighting

- Improve lighting for pedestrians.

Key Strategies and actions:

- Develop a program for upgrading lighting in areas of community need in accordance with the Australian Lighting Standard.
- Continue the underground of power and the establishment of heritage street lighting in High Street Oatlands.

In June 2009, Council secured \$270,000 from the State Government under the Urban Renewal and Heritage Fund to progress the next stage (Stage 4) of the Oatlands High Street Underground Power Project.

This stage extends from Church Street to approximately 200 metres south of Wellington Street. Works commenced in late 2009 and were essentially completed in 2010/11.

Additional street lighting has been approved / provided in accordance with Council's Street-lighting Policy.



Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: INFRASTRUCTURE

2010-11 Achievements

2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan
Over the next five years Council will:

Sewers

- Increase the number of properties that have access to reticulated sewerage services.

Full transfer of water and sewerage assets, liabilities and staff to the newly established regional corporations took place on 1 July 2009. From that date, responsibility for the provision of water and sewerage services moved from local councils to three new regional water and sewerage corporations (trading as Southern Water).

Key Strategies and actions:

- Investigate the future demand for sewerage services in areas zoned for the future residential, commercial and industrial development.

Net assets (sewerage and water) of \$11.311 million transferred to Southern Water, which represented an ownership interest of 1.2 % (based on the 2009 Draft Treasurer's Returns Allocation Order).

Council's share of the total net assets as at 30 June 2011 was \$13.187 million (\$10,990 million as at 30 June 2010). A substantial component of the increased value was due to an adjustment of \$2,747 million based on the Final Treasurer's Allocation Order (Council's ownership interest increased from 1.2% to 1.50%).

Development and building applications are referred to Southern Water for approval as part of the overall assessment and permit process.

Water and Sewerage – Ongoing Reform

The future structure of Water and Sewerage continues to be debated. It is aimed at ensuring the long-term stability of the sector, and that the community receives full value from its investment in water and sewerage.

Council has adopted a number of policy positions in respect to this issue, mainly focused on securing ownership and control by local government. Alternatively, local government is to be fully compensated for its current value of equity under any State owned business model.

Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: INFRASTRUCTURE

2010-11 Achievements

2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan
Over the next five years Council will:

Water

- Increase the number of properties that have access to reticulated water.

Refer above comments – Sewers Program.

Key Strategies and actions:

- Ensure that there is an ongoing replacement and upgrading of reticulation mains throughout the municipality.
- Ensure that there is a design and construction of a new and larger reservoir for the Colebrook water scheme.
- Ensure that there is an upgrade of the reticulated water supply in the Mangalore and Tea Tree Road areas.
- Investigate the future demand for reticulated water services in areas zoned for future residential, commercial and industrial development.

Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: INFRASTRUCTURE

2010-11 Achievements

2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan
Over the next five years Council will:

Irrigation

- Increase access to irrigation water within the municipality.

Key Strategies and actions:

- Seek partnerships that expand the availability of water for irrigation within the municipality.
- Support and lobby for the implementation of the 'Midlands Water Scheme'.
- Facilitate the expansion of "on-farm" storages.
- Encourage the adoption of water conservation practices.

Tasmania Irrigation (TI) (formerly Tasmanian Irrigation Development Board) continues to progress the 38,500 ML Midlands Irrigation Scheme - Arthurs Lake pipeline.

In May 2011, Initial Class water sales occurred, (available to only landholders in the water district). 22,600 ML were sold to landholders across the Northern and Southern Midlands Municipalities. A subsequent round of water sales for open class/investors is planned by TI for early 2011/2012.

Council has been active in supporting the scheme with Southern Midland's Council officers continuing to attending meetings of the Midlands Water Group and the Arthurs Pipeline Regional Representative Group (APRRG).

Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: INFRASTRUCTURE

2010-11 Achievements

2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan
Over the next five years Council will:

Drainage

- Maintenance and improvement of the town storm-water drainage systems.

A total of \$19,700 was expended on capital works during 2010-11. This project involved piping an open drain adjacent to the 'Blue Place' in Kempton to improve amenity and reduce the potential for flooding.

Key Strategies and actions:

- Continue to program capital works that improve the effectiveness of the storm-water drainage systems in the towns in the municipality.
- Research best-practice methods for the disposal of stormwater, that is applicable to country towns and rural living.
- Encourage the adoption of water conservation practices.
- Adopt 'Water Sensitive Urban Design Principles' where appropriate.

Council continues to appraise and monitor an emerging new method to cope with stormwater; 'Water Sensitive Urban Design', which provides more opportunity for rain water to soak into the local water table. A number of examples in other locations in Southern Tasmania are being reviewed to understand the level of success of the method and the ongoing maintenance costs, which are thought to be higher than for traditional stormwater treatments.

The need for Stormwater gross pollutant traps have also been identified, the requirement of which is being incorporated in planning conditions for subdivisional development.

Waste

- Maintenance and improvement of the provision of waste management services to the Community.

Council operates three waste transfer stations, as well as providing a kerbside garbage collection (using mobile garbage bins), and kerbside recycling service, throughout the municipality.

Key Strategies and actions:

- Continue to be an active participant in the Southern Waste Management Authority.
- Continue to review the on-going operational arrangements for waste management.

Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: INFRASTRUCTURE

2010-11 Achievements

2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan
Over the next five years Council will:

Waste (Continued)

- In conjunction with the Waste Advisory Council seek to identify suitable markets for recyclable products.

Council continues to be represented on the Southern Waste Strategy Authority (SWSA), which includes representatives from all 12 southern Tasmanian Councils.

A review of waste management arrangements in Tasmania was received by SWSA in early 2011. Since then, SWSA has built support for the introduction of a compulsory waste levy in Tasmania. LGAT has commenced negotiations with the State Government to implement the reforms recommended in the report. SWSA commenced a highly successful anti-litter media campaign in 2011, centred on the catch-phrase "Don't be a Tosser". SWSA over the past 12 months has been instrumental initiating discussion of reforming waste management in Tasmania, and continues to advocate for the introduction of measures to ensure the sustainability of local government waste programs.

Information, Communication Technology

- Improve access to modern communications infrastructure.

Key Strategies and actions:

- Seek opportunities to facilitate the provision of cost effective broadband and mobile telecommunications access across the municipality.
- Seek opportunities to ensure the continuation and maintenance of land-line and public telephone services.
- Assess opportunities of wireless networks &/or other related technologies.

Council continued to lobby the Australian Government to focus on the provision of cost effective broadband and mobile telecommunications across the municipal area.

Additional communication towers have been erected throughout the municipal area to address 'black-spot' areas.

Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: INFRASTRUCTURE

2010-11 Achievements

2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan
Over the next five years Council will:

Signage

- Signage that is distinctive, informative, easy to see and easy to understand.

A considerable investment has been made in respect to signage for Oatlands and the Callington Mill Precinct, with erecting of the signage to be undertaken in 2011/12.

Key Strategies and actions:

- Implement the signage strategy for the Southern Midlands.

Public Amenities

- Develop a policy framework along with design guidelines for public amenities.

Policy and design guidelines previously adopted for public amenities.

Key Strategies and actions:

- Develop the policy and implement the framework along with the design guidelines for public amenities in the Southern Midlands.

Public amenities are located at Oatlands (2 sites), Kempton (2 sites), Campania, Colebrook and Tunbridge (rear of Community Hall).

Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: **GROWTH**

2010-11 Achievements

2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan
Over the next five years Council will:

Residential

- Increase the resident, ratepaying population in the municipality.

Key Strategies and actions:

- Seek opportunities to increase the number of subdivisions providing affordable land in areas that can utilise the existing water, sewer and road infrastructure.
- Investigate the potential of under-utilised Commonwealth, State and Local Government owned land for use and/or development.
- Investigate and pursue innovative responses to residential developments.

In the 2006 Census (held on 8th August 2006) there were 5,668 persons usually resident in the Southern Midlands.

115 Development Applications and 14 Subdivision / Boundary Adjustment Applications, along with 97 Building Applications (dwellings and other buildings) were processed / issued during the 2010/2011 reporting period

The sub-regional "Land Use Strategy 2008" prepared by Pitt & Sherry in conjunction with Parsons Brinckerhoff (as part of the Joint Land Use Planning Initiative, (JLUPI) Phase One referred to elsewhere in this report), indicates that the Southern Midlands has experienced a small, and slowing population increase in recent years. Projections suggest that this slow increase will continue in the forecasting period assuming growth factors remain unchanged. However, it is further recognised that the advent of the Intermodal Freight Hub and anticipated associated development at Bridgewater will result in a significant boost in demand in the Bagdad-Mangalore-Dysart-Kempton corridor.

The second phase of the JLUPI project was largely completed in 2009/2010 with final endorsement of outcomes in 2010/11. These included the Bagdad-Mangalore Structure Plan and an overall Settlement & Open Space Strategy for the four-Council sub-region which incorporates local plans for the municipality's major towns. These foreshadow future changes to land use zoning intended to be implemented in the next planning scheme.

Most towns in the municipal area retain sufficient undeveloped land zoned for residential development.

Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: **GROWTH**

2010-11 Achievements

2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan
Over the next five years Council will:

Tourism

- Increase the number of tourists visiting and spending money in the municipality.

Key Strategies and actions:

- Implement the Callington Mill Master Plan & the restoration of the Callington Mill to full operations.
- Seek opportunities to support the development and growth of motor-home tourism.
- Seek opportunities to further develop the Callington Mill Precinct as well as the Military Precinct.
- Support the development of the Pugin Trail.
- Work in partnership with other State and Regional organisations, such as Totally South and the Heritage Highway Tourism Region Association.
- Review the Southern Midlands Tourism Plan in light of recent tourism development.
- Support the ongoing development and deliver services by the Heritage Highway Visitor Information Centre.
- Identify opportunities and activities to pursue the Tourism Tasmania Regional Marketing Strategy.

The Callington Mill (and associated Visitor Centre) commenced operation on 4th October 2010. Associated with this development was the establishment of an Oatlands Marketing Committee. This Committee developed new marketing material, identified and progressed appropriate marketing campaigns.

There is evidence to suggest that there has been a significant increase in visitor numbers since October 2010.

A range of tour packages have been developed, which incorporate the Mill, the broader Military Precinct, and the full Oatlands township. These are being promoted through a number of channels, including major bus companies and cruise ship operations.

Council is working to support the Pugin Foundation acknowledging its aim to develop a 'Pugin Trail' running from Oatlands through Colebrook and Richmond to Hobart. St Paul's Catholic Church in Oatlands and St Patrick's in Colebrook are two of only a handful of his buildings in Australia and are very much in original condition.

The Southern Tasmanian Council's Authority (STCA) is also working direct with its member Councils to progress tourism initiatives following the demise of Totally South.

During 2010/2011 Council participated in the Tourism Tasmania's Heritage Tourism Strategy Development, with membership on the project steering committee. This project will be completed in 2011/2012.



Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME:
GROWTH

2010-11 Achievements

2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan
Over the next five years Council will:

Tourism (Continued)

Council continues to support the Heritage Highway Tourism Region Association and provided a contribution of \$12,000 in 2010-11.

The Association has two main purposes:

- To facilitate sustainable and profitable business opportunities through the provision of a series of distinct visitor experiences, by engaging all communities in the development of their individual and complementary identities*
- To maximise business for the region's tourism industry, to build demand for core services, to development, to develop new marketing segments and to raise demand for tourism and other businesses in the region.*

The Heritage Highway Visitor Information Centre, which is fully funded and managed by Council, continues to experience increased visitor numbers. The Centre Manager and staff have also been heavily involved in the organisation and management of a number of community events, mainly the Oatlands Spring Festival and Kempton Festival, both of which attract large visitor numbers to our municipal area.

Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: **GROWTH**

2010-11 Achievements

2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan Over the next five years Council will:

Business

- Increase the number and diversity of business in the Southern Midlands.
- Increase employment within the municipality.
- Increase Council revenue to facilitate business activities.

Key Strategies and actions:

- Continue to facilitate and be actively involved in the development of new business opportunities.
- Continue to provide support to businesses within the municipality to help ensure their long-term viability.
- Seek opportunities to support the development of affordable temporary accommodation for seasonal and other workers.
- Pursue the establishment of regional or statewide facilities that can take advantage of the municipality's central location and the accessibility of road and rail facilities.
- Identify opportunities associated with the gas pipeline project.
- Develop and provide incentives to businesses to establish in the Southern Midlands, or for local businesses to expand.
- Identify and examine possible uses for investment ready land as potential development sites including working in partnership with the State Government to review the future options within the Municipal boundaries.
- Develop and maintain infrastructure critical for the establishment and retention of businesses.

Consistent with the recommendations contained within the Oatlands Integrated Development Strategy (OIDS), the Southern Midlands Council established two separate entities associated with the creation of the Centre for Colonial Heritage Conservation and Restoration:

- a) a proprietary company which will operate the 'Services Arm' – Heritage Building Solutions Pty Ltd – commenced operation 19/7/10; and*
- b) a company limited by guarantee to operate the 'Education Arm' – Heritage Education and Skills Centre Ltd – commenced operation 28/7/2010.*

The purpose of the respective Companies are as follows:

Heritage Building Solutions Pty Ltd

To commercially provide building services, primarily to the heritage property sector and to conserve and renovate heritage property for re-use.

This includes:

- *Conservation & Restoration Building Works;*
- *Professional Services Brokering;*
- *Heritage Building Redevelopment;*
- *Building services to Southern Midlands Council;*
- *Commercial building services;*
- *Production of architectural fittings; and*
- *Joinery workshop production items.*

Heritage Education and Skills Centre Ltd

To promote and facilitate the conservation and restoration of heritage properties and the development and the application of associated knowledge and skills.

Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME:
GROWTH

2010-11 Achievements

2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan
Over the next five years Council will:

Business (Continued)

- Develop opportunities and practices in a range of business activities centred on the unique competitive advantage of assets in the Southern Midlands

This includes:

- *Education and training - Apprentice and post trade training; Field work and structured experience; Property owner training; Professional training; and Visitor education.*
- *Research into - Conservation & Restoration Techniques; Building re-use technologies and best practice; Heritage/Archaeology; and Interpretation.*
- *Funding Heritage conservation and restoration activities – sourcing external funds and gifts”*

Council participated in the Southern Tasmanian Council's Authority's Regional Tourism Project in 2010/2011. This focussed on producing recommendations relating to how local government can work most effectively with local tourism and business associations. The final report acknowledged the value a tourism/business association in Oatlands could bring to the town and broader district.

Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME:
GROWTH

2010-11 Achievements

2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan
Over the next five years Council will:

Industry

- Retain and enhance the development of the rural sector as a key economic driver in the Southern Midlands. *See comments provided under "Irrigation" Program.*

Key Strategies and actions:

- Develop opportunities that enhance Southern Midlands role as a focal point for rural activity.
- Seek opportunities to establish and expand sale-yards and abattoirs.
- Support traditional rural industries and the concept of "right to farm".
- Work in partnership with the State Government to establish a truck wash facility to support the agricultural community.
- Seek opportunities to facilitate the provision of accommodation for seasonal workers.
- Continue implementation of the Southern Midlands Weed Management Strategy as it relates to agricultural land.
- Facilitate the development of value adding opportunities in the rural sector through high production agriculture.
- Encourage and facilitate innovation in the rural sector.
- Facilitate traditional skills development | heritage and allied industries.

Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME:
GROWTH

2010-11 Achievements

2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan
Over the next five years Council will:

Integration

- The integrated development of towns and villages in the Southern Midlands.

Refer comments provided under "Business" re: the Oatlands Development Strategy.

Key Strategies and actions:

- Scope, develop and implement the Oatlands Development Strategy as a model that can be used for other towns and villages.
- Ensure that, through effective strategic planning, community benefit from development of the Bagdad-Mangalore Bypass is maximised.
- Maximise the opportunities presented through the sub regional Joint Land Use Planning Initiative (JLUPI) and the development of a new Planning Scheme.

The final Bagdad-Mangalore Structure Plan (BMSP) and the broader Settlement and Open Space Strategy, both part of the four-Council Joint Land Use Planning Initiative were formally endorsed by Council. The BMSP provides a detailed spatial strategy for the area up until the Bagdad-Mangalore Bypass is constructed, and an outline for development in the valley following construction. This latter work will be reviewed and detailed in the year prior to the opening of the bypass.

The Settlement Strategy provides a range of recommendations for other major towns in the municipality which will inform the drafting of the next planning scheme.

Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: LANDSCAPES

2010-11 Achievements

2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan
Over the next five years Council will:

Heritage

- Maintenance and restoration of significant heritage structures.
- Retain the heritage values of towns within the municipality.

Implementation of the Southern Midlands Historic Heritage Strategy 2009-13 is progressing, in most instances ahead of targets. Heritage Project Officer position has been made into a full-time Manager – Heritage Projects position.

Key Strategies and actions:

- Implement the Callington Mill Master Plan.
- Work in Partnership with the State Government to ensure the strategic long-term management of publicly owned heritage sites.
- Support and facilitate investment in the Heritage Skills Centre in Oatlands
- Facilitate and investigate opportunities for assisting custodians of heritage structures in preserving significant heritage assets.
- Seek to accelerate the process of moving the swimming pool from the gaol.
- Undertake the continuing development of the Oatlands Military Precinct.
- Continue the under-grounding of power in Oatlands.
- Continue to improve the streetscapes of the towns of the Southern Midlands.
- Implementation of the Southern Midlands Heritage Plan.

The restoration and reconstruction of Callington Mill to a working windmill has been completed. The Callington Mill and Precinct Master Plan has largely been implemented.

The restoration of the Oatlands Gaoler's Residence is near completion, with assistance from the Tasmanian Government's Urban Renewal and Heritage Fund. An interpretation plan has been developed, which has been partly funded by the Tasmanian Community Fund. The interpretation fitout and landscaping are soon to be progressed.

The full restoration of the Oatlands Gaoler's Residence is underway as funded by the Tasmanian Government's Urban Renewal and Heritage Fund. Council endorsed a use and development plan for the building, which will be completed and opened by April 2011.

A volunteer program continues to run at the Oatlands Supreme Court House, with community use of that building ongoing.

Work is continuing on the restoration of the Green Ponds (Kempton) watch house.

The Centre for Heritage at Oatlands – Heritage Education and Skills Centre has been developing curriculum and partnerships for the forthcoming launch of training programs.

A successful archaeological excavation program was run at the Oatlands Gaol and Callington Steam Mill, in conjunction with the University of Sydney.



Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: LANDSCAPES

2010-11 Achievements

**2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan
Over the next five years Council will:
Heritage (Continued)**

Significant progress has been made on the management of Council's heritage collection, with assistance through Arts Tasmania's Roving Curator Program.

Council has continued a close working relationship with Heritage Tasmania on the implementation of the Southern Midlands Heritage Project, particularly with the update of Tasmanian Heritage Register entries throughout the municipal area.

In 2007 Southern Midlands Council, Heritage Tasmania and Tourism Tasmania completed a joint project which provided recommendations to update the State and local heritage registers, subsequently identify and describe cultural landscapes and then determine how knowledge of cultural landscapes and heritage assets can be used to advance sustainable tourism. Southern Midlands and Heritage Tasmania are continuing to work together to implement the recommendations of the report in regard to the listing of heritage places. In regard to heritage precincts, it is envisaged that the next Southern Midlands planning scheme will include enlarged heritage precincts at Oatlands, Kempton, Campania and Mangalore, and a new precinct at Colebrook.

This work has been supplemented by the second phase of JLUPI, which has produced a combined Heritage Management Plan for the four-council area. This was formally endorsed during 2010/2011 and will provide input into the next planning scheme. Recommendations pertaining to new and expanded heritage precincts have provided additional input to the 2007 work mentioned above. The JLUPI Heritage Management Plan also provides recommended principles to be incorporated into the next planning scheme heritage schedule (in the future to be referred to as 'codes').

Council has also continued to participate in State efforts to develop a state-wide planning scheme heritage code.

Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: LANDSCAPES

2010-11 Achievements

2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan
Over the next five years Council will:

Natural

- Identify and protect areas that are of high conservation value.
- Encourage the adoption of best practice landcare practices.

Ongoing commitment to managing weeds on roadsides, quarries and public reserves, with a focus on gorse and broome. External source funding has enabled limited assistance on private land for Pattersons Curse.

Key Strategies and actions:

- Continue implementation of the Southern Midlands Weed Management Strategy.
- Implement and monitor the Lake Dulverton Management Strategy and Action Plan including renewal of licence.
- Review and update the Campania Bush Reserve Management Plan.
- Continue to implement agreed Bush-care, River-care and Catchment Management Plans for the Municipality.
- Continue to implement agreed Bushcare, Rivercare and Catchment Management Plans for the Municipality.

The outbreak of Serrated Tussock at Spring Hill continues to be actively managed by the landholders involved. There has not been any other sites in the Southern Midlands recorded with Serrated Tussock to date.

The Lake Dulverton Management Strategy and the Lake Dulverton Action Plan 2008 continue to be implemented. Ongoing restoration of Mahers Point cottage.

The Southern Midlands Bushcare Strategy (SMBS) continues to remain relevant, with funding secured to further implement bush conservation in identified high priority vegetation corridors. Australian Govt (through NRM South) funds of \$105,000 for the Biodiversity on Farms Project was secured. The project, in partnership with Natural Resource Planning (NRP), resulted in 12 landholders securing funds. This was to protect a total of 731 hectares of bushland of which 622 was rated as High Biodiversity Management Priority when tested against the alignment with the identified SMBS priorities and the NRP Regional Ecosystem Model identified priorities.

Southern Midlands Council's Natural Resource Management / Landcare Unit successfully tendered for work with the Tasmanian Irrigation Midlands Irrigation Scheme - Arthurs Lake Pipeline component. The two lots of work related to environmental survey work in the proposed Floods Creek dam footprint area. The second contract related to identifying potential offset sites for species affected by the proposed dam.



Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: **GROWTH**

2010-11 Achievements

2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan
Over the next five years Council will:

Natural (Continued)

Best Practice landcare information continues to be promoted, with information and research literature being available and distributed to many landholders upon contact with the landcare office.

Council continues to support the Midlands Tree Committee in implementing landcare works (revegetation and remnant bush conservation) as per the Southern Midlands Bushcare Strategy. 3500 native plants were distributed to landholders in July 2010 as a result of this partnership and the Midlands Tree Committee successfully securing some grant funding from the Australian Government.

Officers from the Council's NRM/Landcare Unit continue to participate in the development of the Macquarie Catchment Water Management Plan being developed by the Dept Primary Industries Parks Water and Environment. Officers are also involved in the development of Biodiversity Conservation Offset Guidelines and a project considering the feasibility of Biochar. Both are being driven through the Southern Tasmanian Councils Association.

The expanded Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary at Bagdad continues to be managed by Council via a community Management Committee that includes a representative from the Tasmanian Land Conservancy, (TLC). Previously, through a partnership with the TLC, funding was obtained from the Australian Government to purchase an area of approximately 400 hectares along the northern border of the sanctuary. This land also forms a corridor with the nearby Alpha Pinnacle Conservation Area, thereby essentially tripling the size of the contiguous protected lands at Bagdad.

Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

**STRATEGIC THEME:
GROWTH**

2010-11 Achievements

**2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan
Over the next five years Council will:
Natural (Continued)**

During 2010-2011, as part of its Joint Land Use Planning Initiative (Phase Two) mentioned elsewhere in this document, the final report was completed on a four-Council Settlement Strategy. This has, in part, taken into account areas of threatened vegetation and other natural values that will be recognised as constraints to development.

Council also substantially participated in the Southern Tasmania Regional Planning Project, which is working towards a region-wide land use strategy and a suite of consistent and contemporary planning schemes. Through this, development involving natural values will be managed in a consistent way across the region.



Flat Rock Reserve – Chauncy Vale Sanctuary

Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: LANDSCAPES

2010-11 Achievements

2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan
Over the next five years Council will:

Cultural

- Increase the retention, documentation and accessibility of the aboriginal, convict, rural and contemporary culture of the Southern Midlands.

Council is preparing an updated database of locally significant heritage places for the municipality, in readiness for the new draft planning scheme which is to be drafted in 2012. The 2007 heritage project between Council and Heritage Tasmania provides a substantial number of recommendations to inform updates to both the State and local heritage registers, including both individual places and precincts/landscapes

Key Strategies and actions:

- Identify and document the cultural heritage of the Southern Midlands.
- Develop and implement an Arts Strategy for the Southern Midlands.
- Develop a documented history of the Southern Midlands.

Pursuant to recommendation in the JLUPI Bagdad/Mangalore Structure Plan and the Heritage Management Plan, Council commenced investigating the creation of a heritage landscape precinct in the lower Mangalore and Pontville district, based around Shene, in conjunction with neighbouring Brighton Council. The outputs of this process are intended to be implemented through the new planning schemes for the two Councils.

Dr Alison Alexander has continued to conduct interviews with a range of persons within the Southern Midlands to capture and document the cultural and social historical context of the Southern Midlands. Funding was received from the State Government to progress the publication of this work into the form of a Southern Midlands History Book, with it to be published in June 2012.

Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: LANDSCAPES

2010-11 Achievements

2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan
Over the next five years Council will:

Regulatory

- A regulatory environment that is supportive of and enables appropriate development.

97 Development Applications and 14 Subdivision / Boundary Adjustment Applications, along with 97 Building Applications (dwellings and other buildings) were processed / issued during the 2010/2011 reporting period.

Key Strategies and actions:

- Make use of the Joint Land Use Planning Initiative (JLUPI) strategy to develop a Planning Scheme for the Southern Midlands that reflects community and Council aspirations and aligns to the strategic direction of the Council.
- Ensure that new State policies are appropriately incorporated within Council's Planning Schemes.
- Process building and plumbing applications in a timely manner and monitor compliance with the relevant legislation.

134 Plumbing Permits and 20 Special Plumbing Permits were issued during the period.

Customer Service Charter finalised.

Council has completed the sub-regional 'Joint Land Use Planning Initiative' (JLUPI) project with the Brighton, Central Highlands and Derwent Valley Councils. The objectives of this project are to development of a joint sub-regional land use planning strategy and, subsequently, four new 'common' planning schemes.

Phase Two of JLUPI was completed in 2009-10, with final documents endorsed in 2010-2011. This has provided detailed strategic planning in key locales. This includes structure plans for major townships and the Bagdad-Mangalore corridor, along with a Heritage Management Plan. This work will substantially inform the new planning schemes intended to be developed through 2011-2012.

During 2010-11 Council also participated in the Southern Tasmania Regional Planning Project, a project with broadly similar aims to JLUPI, but encompassing all 12 Southern Councils plus the (now defunct) Sullivan's Cove Waterfront Authority. It is under this project that the new planning scheme will now be developed, replacing the previous intention under the JLUPI project. A key outcome of this approach will be a new planning scheme for Southern Midlands that is substantially consistent with the other planning schemes in Southern Tasmania,

Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME:
LANDSCAPES

2010-11 Achievements

2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan
Over the next five years Council will:
Regulatory (Continued)

thereby facilitating understanding of the planning system within the broader community and reducing costs to local government.

Both the broader high-level and the detailed local work undertaken through the Southern Regional Planning Project and the JLUPI project should ensure that the land use planning objectives of the Southern Midlands, are strongly carried forward into the new planning scheme in a way which is consistent with broader regional strategies..

Climate Change

- Develop strategies to support the address issues of Climate Change and alternative energy use in the Southern Midlands.

Program achievements are listed under the following:

Key Strategies and actions:

- Implement initiatives that are focused on supporting the community in maximising the funding opportunities/benefits of climate change initiatives provided by Government and related organisations.
- Participate in and contribute to regional forums in relation to the impacts of climate change in the Southern Midlands.

Energy audits & efficiency measures

Electricity usage data for council sites and facilities has been collected and analysed by 'Planet Footprint'. The data enables council to track energy usage on a quarterly basis, to compare usage to previous periods, to compare performance with councils, identify anomalies in usage, and to track greenhouse gas emissions. Council's energy data, collected now for 4 years, forms a good basis for initiation of efficiency targets and will enable a reasonable basis on which to gauge future performance.

Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

**STRATEGIC THEME:
LIFESTYLE**

**2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan
Over the next five years Council will:
Climate Change (Continued)**

2010-11 Achievements

Community climate change grant

Council was successful in a grant application to the State Government's Climate Connect Program. Project activities under the grant commenced in June and will be completed in 2012. Project activities will largely focus on breaking down barriers that prevent effective action being taken on climate change by providing the community with information, tools and incentives.

Climate Change Adaptation Plan development

Involvement in the STCA's Regional Climate Change Adaptation Project commenced. Under this project a climate change adaptation plan will be developed for council. Risk statements will be developed for all council business areas in relation to the primary climate change impacts for the Southern Midlands. Once the risks are prioritised, adaptation actions with associated responsibilities and timeframes will be developed.

Solar hot water – community information & purchasing guide

A solar hot water guide was reviewed and continues to be a resource to residents on: solar technology; its benefits; energy savings; pros and cons of various technologies; current rebates; suppliers and prices.

Home energy audits – Council's Home Energy Assessment Toolkit (HEAT toolkit) is a take home kit that enables residents to undertake their own home energy use appraisal.

Waste to energy initiative – a proposal was developed to efficiently utilise 'green waste' from all Southern Region councils to be processed by pyrolysis to produce renewable energy and 'biochar'. The next stage is to develop a business case for the project.

Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: LIFESTYLE

2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan
Over the next five years Council will:
Climate Change (Continued)

2010-11 Achievements

Adaptation assistance for farmers - Assist the farming sector of the municipality to adapt to the predicted drier, warmer environment. This means provision of information, hosting seminars and running field days on themes such as water efficiency, soil carbon and pasture cropping.

A local project funded by Landcare Australia to trial and promote the technique of pasture cropping was completed in March 2011. The final field day for the project was attended by 40 farmers.

Waste to energy & biochar initiative – a proposal to efficiently utilise 'green waste' from all Southern Region councils to be processed by pyrolysis to produce renewable energy and 'biochar'.

Adaptation assistance for farmers - Assist the farming sector of the municipality to adapt to the predicted drier, warmer environment. This means provision of information, hosting seminars and running field days on themes such as water efficiency, soil carbon and pasture cropping.

Support scientifically informed strategic NRM projects as opportunities arise. Focus on landscape ecology, including protection of important remnants, connectivity and weed management.

Education and awareness – keep residents informed about current issues and threats e.g. invasive weeds. Encourage, through education and awareness, the conservation of remnant bush stands. Raise awareness of native vegetation issues relative to the Midlands.

Organise public seminars on themes such as: climate change issues and solutions, energy efficiency, and renewable energy options.

Provide community resources on: climate change, energy efficiency, and renewable energy through Council's web site, the ratepayers newsletter and through personal consultation.

Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: LIFESTYLE

2010-11 Achievements

2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan
Over the next five years Council will:

Youth

- Increase the retention of young people in the municipality.

Ongoing implementation of the Youth Policy provides the framework for participation and engagement with our young people.

Key Strategies and actions:

- Facilitate a mentoring and leadership program in partnership with the schools in the Southern Midlands.
- Develop youth programs that cover employment and training as well as being linked to social, recreational and entertainment activities.
- Continue to identify and respond to the need for facilities for families with children (family day care, day centres).
- In Partnership with the State Government investigate ways to enhance the delivery of youth services in the Southern Midlands.
- Respond to and monitor the recreation needs of the young people of the Southern Midlands.

Council has continued to provide very successful School Holiday Programs during the year which attracted funding contributions from the SM Rural Primary Health Service, Reconnect, Communities for Children and the State Government.

Council is a Member of the Youth Network of Tasmania.

Council continues to be a active member of Reclink, an organisation that promotes youth based recreation & arts activities.

The Mobile Skate Park which Council purchased through the Australian Government's stimulus package (Regional & Local Community Infrastructure Program) has continued to be extremely popular with the young people throughout the Southern Midlands due to the rotational roster that has been established

Council has expanded its youth development networks to include several surrounding local authorities.

Council officers developed a discussion paper on antisocial behaviour and a number of exciting initiatives have been created in consultation with the Community as a positive response to this issue. This then gave rise to a Council facilitated project called Imagine Campania, which was a meaningful engagement with the residents of Campania. This has seen the establishment by local residents of a youth group that now has a membership of some 75 young people along with the establishment of Imagine Campania Inc.

Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: LIFESTYLE

2010-11 Achievements

2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan
Over the next five years Council will:

Aged

- Improve the ability of the aged to stay in their communities.

A number of dwelling units are continuing to be approved and built to provide a mix of housing stock for older Southern Midlands' residents. This will allow them to reside in their rural environment close to their families rather than being forced to move to an urban unit complex.

Key Strategies and actions:

- Facilitate assistance for the aged to stay in their own homes, or with the support of a dependant carer & Support Organisations in independent living units.
- Provide continuing support to the Midlands Multi-Purpose Health Centre (MMPHC)
- Provide support for and where appropriate facilitate the meaningful social engagement of older members of our community.

Council is represented on the MMPHC Community Advisory Committee, being an advisory body to the Centre's management. Its role is to consult with the Community and provide input into the services delivered from the Centre. Council officers continue to work with the Community Advisory Committee in a range of roles.

The continued development of the Community Men's Shed - Oatlands has provided a valuable extension of service / engagement options for aged members of our Community.

Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME:
LIFESTYLE

2010-11 Achievements

2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan
Over the next five years Council will:

Children & Families

- Ensure that appropriate childcare services, as well as other family related services, are facilitated within the Community.

The Southern Midlands Council is not directly involved in the provision of childcare services. It provides operational subsidies to the Station Child Care Centre and the Bagdad Community Child Care Centre both of which operate within the municipal area.

Key Strategies and actions:

- Review the adequacy of current childcare facilities (i.e. location, accessibility and number of placements).
- Take appropriate action to address any shortfalls identified in the provision of family related services across the Southern Midlands.

The Council also contributes to the Brighton Council for managing the family day care service that caters for the Southern Midlands.

Council has worked with and supported the Communities for Children program, being run by the schools in the region.

Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

**STRATEGIC THEME:
LIFESTYLE**

2010-11 Achievements

2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan
Over the next five years Council will:

Volunteers

- Encourage community members to volunteer.

The Southern Midlands Community Small Grants Program was introduced by Council in 2007-08. The Program provides \$20,000 per annum (through one round) for Community groups to apply for up to \$3,000 to undertake projects.

Key Strategies and actions:

- Ensure that there is support and encouragement for volunteering.
- Facilitate training programs aimed at providing volunteers with the necessary skills.
- Continue to support volunteers and their respective community groups through the Southern Midlands Community Small Grants Program.
- Work with Volunteering Tasmania to develop policies and frameworks that support volunteering throughout the Southern Midlands.

In the sixth round (September 2010), twelve applications were received. Grants totalling \$20,000 were approved against a total request of \$45,598 (total value of projects - \$143,023).

The community volunteer based, Horse-drawn Heritage Project at Kempton has moved forward with the construction of a Coach House on the site. A drive for further volunteer participation is required for this project.

The former Oatlands Memorial Library is nearing completion as a redeveloped "hub" for volunteer services in the Southern Midlands.

NRM projects have engaged volunteers wherever possible e.g. with Hutchins School students participating in the development of the Dulverton Walkway.



The Redeveloped Midlands Memorial Community Centre

Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

**STRATEGIC THEME:
LIFESTYLE**

2010-11 Achievements

**2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan
Over the next five years Council will:**

Access

- Continue to explore transport options for the Southern Midlands community. Continue to meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act.

Council continues to make available a bus to the Midlands Multi-Purpose Health Centre for client transport.

The Access Plan for Southern Midlands has been prepared.

Key Strategies and actions:

- Be an advocate for improving transport services for those in need within the Community.
- Prepare and implement an access plan to meet the requirements of the DDA. (possibly across DV, CH, BC, & SM)
- Encourage organisations in the Southern Midlands to adopt the 'Access Card' system.

Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: LIFESTYLE

2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan
Over the next five years Council will:

Public Health

- Monitor and maintain a safe and healthy public environment.

Key Strategies and actions:

- Continue to provide school immunisation programs.
- Continue to register and monitor food premises.
- Continue to ensure waste water is effectively disposed of.
- Encourage health professionals, including doctors and nurses, to move to the Southern Midlands.
- Provide continuing support to the Midlands Multi-Purpose Health Centre (MMPHC).
- Continually raise the awareness of Notifiable Diseases in the community.

2010-11 Achievements

Immunisation Programs conducted for children in Kindergarten, Prep, Grades 6 and 10 at Oatlands, Kempton, Bagdad, Campania and Levendale schools in association with Council's Medical Officer of Health.

Oatlands Swimming Pool water quality tested in accordance with the Public Health Act – Water Quality Guidelines during the summer season.

Food premises and Places of Assembly monitored and licensed in accordance with statutory requirements.

Relevant legislative requirements are specified in:

- *Food Act 2003*
- *Food Safety Standards*
- *Public Health Act 1997 and associated Guidelines.*

Statutory licences issued for:

- *Food Premises – 54*
- *Places of Assembly – 18*
- *Water Carriers – 0 Note: there are 5 carriers licensed (licences renewable every three years).*
- *Special Event Licences – 8*
- *Private Water Licences – 0*

Council's Environmental Health Officer and the local medical General Practitioners have hosted UTAS medical students for a "rural" experience to gauge their willingness to undertake a rural posting following graduation.

Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: LIFESTYLE

2010-11 Achievements

**2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan
Over the next five years Council will:**

Recreation

- Provide a range of recreational activities and services that meet the reasonable needs of the Community.

Following the adoption of the Southern Midlands Recreation Plan (SMRP) in 2006, recommendations are progressively being refined and developed.

Key Strategies and actions:

- Continue to Implement the Southern Midlands Recreation Plan.
- Identify opportunities to work in partnership with the Community to improve recreational services and activities.
- Seek opportunities to develop a Regional Aquatic Centre to replace the existing Oatlands Municipal Pool.
- Review the Tasmanian Trails Strategy to identify opportunities for the Southern Midlands.

The SMRP identified that a sport and recreation facilities master plan be adopted for each of the municipality's major towns and villages. The subsequent Campania Sport & Recreation Facilities Master Plan 2007 continued to be developed and refined in 2010-2011 through the Imagine Campania initiative.

Development of the Mangalore Recreation Ground horse arena has been completed, a project part supported by Sport & Recreation Tasmania (\$18,400). This is a component of the Mangalore / Bagdad Sport & Recreation Facilities Master Plan.

The Memorandum of Understanding that Council entered into with the Bagdad Community Club, in recognition of the valuable services and resources provided to community members, continues to be a tangible manner in which Council can add value in the area.

New Oatlands Pool Project: – Council again pursued another significant funding opportunity that would have enabled the Oatlands pool to be relocated from the historic Gaol to the current Council depot site, unfortunately without success. However, this process has resulted in detailed plans and costings being developed for a 'Midlands Health & Fitness Centre' (including the new pool) and thus providing a well-developed basis from which to pursue other funding opportunities should they arise.

Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: LIFESTYLE

2010-11 Achievements

2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan
Over the next five years Council will:

Recreation (Continued)

The Oatlands Integrated Development Strategy confirmed Council's existing depot site as the preferred site for a new pool and fitness centre.

The projects identified in the Australia Government's second stimulus package, (R&LCIP – Round 2) are nearing completion:

- 1. Extensions and alterations to the old Oatlands Memorial Library building, know as the MILE / Community House (\$45,000);*
- 2. The design and construction of a home for the horse drawn carriages at Kempton (\$45,000); and*
- 3. Restoration of the old Kempton Watch House, adjacent to the Council Chambers (\$25,000)*

The projects identified in the Australia Government's third stimulus package, (R&LCIP – Round 3) are due for completion by December 2011, namely,:

- 1. Dulverton Corridor Walkway Stage 3 \$25,000 (part funded by Sport & Recreation Tasmania)*
- 2. Bagdad Walking & Riding Path (\$10,000)*
- 3. Woodsdale Recreation Ground Upgrade \$27,000*
- 4. Flour Mill Park Redevelopment \$26,000*
- 5. Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary – Day Dawn Cottage Refurbishment \$17,000*
- 6. Melton Mowbray Park Shelter \$6,000*
- 7. Restoration of Tunbridge Coaching Monument \$10,000*

Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME:
LIFESTYLE

2010-11 Achievements

2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan
Over the next five years Council will:

Animals

- Create an environment where animals are treated with respect and do not create a nuisance for the community.

1,780 Dogs were registered, and 29 Kennels licensed in the 2010-11 financial year.

Council is in the process of reviewing its Dog Management Policy 2009. This has been subject to extensive community consultation and should be finalised with a range of additional information during 2011/12.

Key Strategies and actions:

- Continue dog control, regulatory, licensing and educational programs.
- Continue to conduct a public awareness / education program that informs the Community of the need to contain livestock and the associated legal requirements.
- Continue to provide and maintain stock pounds.

Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: LIFESTYLE

2010-11 Achievements

2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan
Over the next five years Council will:

Education

- Increase the educational and employment opportunities available within the Southern Midlands.

Council continues to work with the education sector to provide valuable Community and professional officer support to the schools in the Southern Midlands.

Key Strategies and actions:

- Develop partnerships increasing educational opportunities within the Southern Midlands for the entire community, as well as recognising the principles of the "Child at the Centre" framework.
- Develop a supportive framework for the school to work transition of young people in our community.
- Provide meaningful and informed input to education processes and systems.
- Provide heritage skills learning opportunities.

The Centre for Heritage and Conservation Restoration, as identified in the Oatlands Integrated Development Strategy, will provide numerous educational opportunities relative to heritage projects and activities.

Council's Imagine Campania project focused on the educational hub at Campania as a key component of its Community engagement and development strategy

Retention

- Maintain and strengthen communities in the Southern Midlands.

Council's Community & Corporate Development business unit works very effectively with Community groups and organisations to assist in building their capacity in delivering a wide range of service/support throughout the Southern Midlands.

Key Strategies and actions:

- Increase the ability of the ageing population to remain in their communities.
- Increase the opportunities for young people to remain in, or return to, the local communities they grew up in.

Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: **COMMUNITY**

2010-11 Achievements

2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan
Over the next five years Council will:

Capacity & Sustainability

- Build the capacity of the Community to help itself and embrace the framework & strategies articulated by the Social Inclusion Commissioner to achieve sustainability.

Council works closely with a number of community based organisations and groups, and provides both 'in-kind' and financial assistance to run community events and activities. It also has a primary role in building their capacity, through good governance and strategic planning support.

Key Strategies and actions:

- Support community groups who wish to run and/or develop community based facilities.
- Support community groups who wish to run and/or develop community based events.
- Continue to provide funding opportunities for community groups through the Southern Midlands Community Small Grants Program.
- Provide support to community groups to access grants from a wide range of sources.
- Provide support to the community groups in their establishment and ongoing development.
- Provide support to the community in addressing major impacts that affect the ability of the community to work cohesively together.

The on-going support of the Community Men's Shed is one practical example of this Community capacity building approach. Council officers are also part of the State Men's Shed Association

Council in partnership with Midlands Initiative for Local Enterprise Inc (MILE) are undertaking the extension and alterations to the old Oatlands Library building to provide a focal point/location for a range of community based activities and services. The Bargain Centre has consolidated itself into the centre which was brought about by having to exit the Callington Mill site due to the site's redevelopment. This has worked well for all concerned and continues to provide a valuable service to the community.

'Midlands Matters' the service provider and community group networking meetings on a monthly basis are adding significant value to the community and continue to be strongly supported.

Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: **COMMUNITY**

2010-11 Achievements

2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan
Over the next five years Council will:

Safety

- Increase the level of safety of the community and those visiting or passing through the municipality.

Key Strategies and actions:

- Continue to support the development of Community based policing initiatives such as "Neighbourhood Watch".
- Work in partnership with the Police to reduce the incidence of crime in the Southern Midlands.
- Maintain a Southern Midlands Emergency Management Plan and review every two years.
- Convene the Disaster Management Committee twice per year.
- Continue to support the Road Accident Rescue Unit in partnership with the State Emergency Service.
- In partnership, develop a Community Safety Committee.

The Southern Midlands Road Rescue Unit had 49 call-outs involving 192 operational hours during the 2010-11 period. This is an increase in the number of incidents (42 incidents in 2009-10) but a reduction in operational hours (273 operational hours in 2009/10) during the prior period. The Unit, which has three rescue vehicles, continues to operate from both Oatlands and Kempton.

The Southern Midlands Emergency Management Planning Committee did not meet during the reporting period.

A review of the Southern Midlands Emergency Management Plan was commenced. The revised Plan will be based on a template developed by the State Emergency Service.

The Oatlands based Ambulance continues to operate in accordance with the Deed of Agreement between the Tasmanian Ambulance Service, the Department of Health and Human Services (Primary Health) and the Southern Midlands Council.

Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: **COMMUNITY**

2010-11 Achievements

2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan
Over the next five years Council will:

Consultation

- Improve the effectiveness of consultation with the Community.

Five (5) Ordinary Meetings of Council were held in the following areas during the summer period:

Key Strategies and actions:

- Continue to schedule Council meetings in the various districts of the municipality.
- Develop a Community Consultation Strategy.

Bagdad, Campania, Parattah, Tunbridge and Tunnack.

Council officers established a consultation project that they called Imagine Campania which has been the catalyst for excellent results in the community

Communication

- Improve the effectiveness of communication with the Community.

Four newsletters were issued during 2010-11.

Key Strategies and actions:

- Continue to issue the quarterly Council newsletter for residents and ratepayers.
- Continue to develop and maintain an "up-to-date" website.
- Embrace innovative approaches to improving communications e.g. Community radio and 'New Media'.

Council continues to maintain its Website (www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au)

The Council web site redevelopment has been identified as a major priority over the forthcoming year.

The Community & Corporate Development business unit has worked with Mid FM Community Radio in the development of a strategic direction for the consolidation of their business model.

Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: ORGANISATION

2010-11 Achievements

2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan
Over the next five years Council will:

Improvement

- Improve the level of responsiveness to Community needs.
- Improve communication within Council.
- Improve the accuracy, comprehensiveness and user friendliness of the Council asset management system.
- Increase the effectiveness, efficiency and use-ability of Council IT systems.
- Develop an overall Continuous Improvement Strategy and framework.

The work order / public enquiry system will be taken over by the new Records Management software system being progressively implemented over the next few months.

Regular staff briefings are conducted.

A significant upgrade has been undertaken in respect to the Geographical Information System (GIS) data held by Council. This work is linked to the STCA's Regional GIS Project which has standardised the approach for data delivery and introduced a common data directory structure for councils in the Southern Region.

Key Strategies and actions:

- Maintain a comprehensive automated work order/public enquiry system as well as a complaints system.
- Improve and maintain the Council web site.
- Maintain an up to date profile of the municipal area to assist in identifying community needs.
- Establish an efficient and effective Intra-net.
- Maintain an effective staff performance appraisal system that provides staff with recognition for their achievements.
- Maintain a regular communication briefing to all staff from the General Manager.
- Develop and implement a project plan for the upgrading of the Council asset management system.
- Develop a strategy to increase the user-friendliness of the finance module.

Other GIS projects included the revision and upgrade of the historic heritage buildings layer; development of the new planning scheme layer; and commencement of capturing data for each of the assets in the asset register.

Council has purchased an IT based Asset Management system and Council team members are working through the implementation stages of data migration and field verification.

The comprehensive maintenance management system that was developed for Council Halls and recreation grounds will be transferred to Council's new Asset Management software system during 2011/12.

Disaster recovery plan developed for Council's IT systems.

A revised staff performance appraisal system, now known as Council's Development Review process has been implemented.

Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: ORGANISATION

2010-11 Achievements

2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan
Over the next five years Council will:

Improvement (continued)

Key Strategies and actions:

- Identify new IT training needs of staff and seek opportunities to enhance their skills.
- Establish a business process improvement program. Prepare a discussion paper and policy recommendations in relation to Continuous Improvement and Quality Assurance across all of Council.

Council have established a Business Process Improvement program, where staff are assessing the efficiency and effectiveness of Council's information communications technology and making recommendations on "working smarter". This is part of Council's drive to deliver cost effective services by constantly reviewing operating activities.

This process identified three major information, communication technology improvements to Council's operating systems, namely:

- 1. Upgrading of the Records Management system (package purchased and in the early phase of operation)*
- 2. Purchase of an Asset Management system (package purchased and at the data migration / verification stage)*
- 3. Major upgrade of Council's web site (in discussions with GCC to host the system also currently establishing the revised site architecture).*

Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: ORGANISATION

2010-11 Achievements

2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan Over the next five years Council will:

Sustainability

- Retain corporate and operational knowledge within Council.
- Provide a safe and healthy working environment.
- Ensure that staff and elected members have the training and skills they need to undertake their roles.
- Increase the cost effectiveness of Council operations through resource sharing with other organisations.
- Continue to maintain and improve the level of statutory compliance of Council operations.
- Ensure that suitably qualified and sufficient staff are available to meet the community's needs.
- Work co-operatively with State and Regional organisations.
- Minimise Councils exposure to risk.

Key Strategies and actions:

- Establish an appropriate quality assurance system for Council.
- Review the appropriateness of employing entry level employees through formal training arrangements.
- Monitor the need for a new Oatlands Works Depot.
- Review the risks associated with the current accommodation at Oatlands.
- Implement the staged re-development of the Kempton Council Chambers and administrative offices.
- Develop a program of education and training to support elected members in the role.

The corporation is made up of nine Councillors elected by ratepayers and residents of the municipal area. Elections are held every two years with half the Councillors retiring at each election. Elections for the position of Mayor and Deputy Mayor are held at the same time every two years. The next election is scheduled for October 2011.

Council holds monthly ordinary meetings on the fourth Wednesday of the month.

In accordance with the Local Government 1993, Council reviewed its Strategic Plan – revised Plan entitled 'Strategic Plan 2010 to 2015.

Council continuously monitors its risk exposure in both day to day activities as well as on a project by project basis.

The Southern Midlands Code of Conduct for councillors is a statement and public declaration of the standard of behaviour that Councillors have agreed should be demonstrated, and which the community can expect to be demonstrated, when they are carrying out their roles and functions as elected community representatives.

Council actively participates in both regional and sub-regional forums. The Southern Tasmanian Council's Authority represents all 12 southern Tasmanian Councils; and the sub-region involves the Brighton, Central Highlands and Derwent Valley Councils. The purpose of these forums are to identify opportunities to work together to achieve benefits and efficiencies.

Risk Management - Staff continue to invest considerable time and effort in implementing Council's Risk Management Strategy. Regular inspections of Council assets are undertaken to identify (and rectify) any potential risks. Suitability assessments have been undertaken of all Council's sporting grounds and facilities.

Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME:
ORGANISATION

2010-11 Achievements

2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan
Over the next five years Council will:

Sustainability (continued)

Key Strategies and actions:

- Develop a program of training for staff to ensure that they have the training and skills they need to undertake their jobs.
- Identify opportunities for resource sharing with other Councils.
- Identify and implement working relationships with the Councils in our sub region across a wide range of operational and support areas.
- Undertake an annual 'in-house' review of statutory compliance, including a review of delegations.
- Review staffing levels at performance appraisal time.
- Continue to participate in State and Regional forums, including the Southern Tasmanian Councils Board, LGAT, as well as others.
- Implement a Risk Management Strategy and work within the framework of the Civic Mutual Plus (CMP) risk management model.

Staff development is a key strategy in continuing to provide exceptional service to our clients. Whilst the training budget is quite small it continues to be invested in a wise and timely manner across the spectrum of Council's responsible areas.

Elected members have participated in a number of workshops to increase skills and knowledge to support them in their role (e.g. LGAT workshops, 'in-house' workshops).

Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME: ORGANISATION

2010-11 Achievements

2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan
Over the next five years Council will:

Finance

- Maintain current levels of community equity.
- Major borrowings for infrastructure will reflect the intergenerational nature of the assets created.
- Council will retain a minimum cash balance to cater for extraordinary circumstances.
- Operating expenditure will be maintained in real terms and expansion of services will be funded by re-allocation of service priorities or an increase in rates.
- Sufficient revenue will be raised to sustain the current level of community and infrastructure services.

The 2010-11 General Purpose Financial Statement forms part of this Annual Report. An unqualified Audit Report has been issued by the Tasmanian Auditor General.

There were no new loan borrowings in 2010/11 and total loan debt decreased by \$96K.

As part of the 2010-11 Budget development process, Council conducted a review of its Financial Management Strategy and associated Policies.

There is an ongoing focus to increase our percentage funding of asset depreciation, and at the same time, develop and improve asset management plans for all major asset types.

Key Strategies and actions:

- Fund depreciation at 50% to 60% until 2006/07 then aim to increase this level thereafter.
- Implement the Southern Midlands Council Financial Management Strategy.
- Seek opportunities to develop and sell Council land.
- Allow for the acquisition or disposal of land where it is in the public interest and where there is a demonstrated community benefit.
- Maximise the opportunities for Council to invest in opportunities that support this Strategic Plan.

Council revalued its Roads, Bridges, Stormwater and Building Assets during the reporting period. This resulted in an overall increase in fair value of \$1,403,400.

The sale of public land in Campania (off Kandara Court), having gone through the legislative process, has been subdivided and associated works completed. They will proceed to sale following the issue of separate titles.



Reporting on Legislative Requirements

In alphabetical order, following are the reports that Council is required to provide under various legislation for the 2010/2011 financial year:

Allowances and Expenses Statement

(Under the *Local Government Act 1993*)

In 2010/2011 Council provided allowances and reimbursements for reasonable expenses to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors. This included telephone rental, telephone calls and travelling.

Allowances \$107,542

Expenses \$20,651

Attendance at Council and Council Committee Meetings Statement

(Under the *Local Government Act 1993*)

Twelve (12) regular Council meetings were held during the year, not including the Annual General Meeting which was held on the 13th of December 2010.

There were seven (7) meetings of Council's Southern Midlands Recreation Committee, being the only Council Committee established in accordance with section 23 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

	Ordinary Council Meetings Held	Ordinary Council Meetings Attended	Special Meetings	Annual General Meetings	Southern Midlands Recreation Committee Meetings Held	Southern Midlands Recreation Committee Meetings Attended
Mayor Tony Bisdee OAM	12	11	N/A	1	N/A	N/A
Deputy Mayor John Jones OAM	12	11	N/A	1	N/A	N/A
Clr Colin Beven	12	12	N/A	1	7	7
Clr Bob Campbell	12	11	N/A	1	N/A	N/A
Clr Marie Connors	12	12	N/A	0	7	7
Clr Don Fish	12	12	N/A	1	7	7
Clr Alex Green	12	11	N/A	1	N/A	N/A
Clr M Jones OAM	12	11	N/A	1	N/A	N/A
Clr H M Scott OAM	12	12	N/A	0	7	7

Reporting on Legislative Requirements

Contracts

In accordance with Section 23(5) of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2005*, Council is required to report on contracts for the supply or provision of goods and services in excess of \$100,000 (excl. GST) entered into during the year to 30th June 2011.

Contactor Name & Address	Description of Contract	Value of Contract (excl. GST)	Period of Contract (plus extension options if applicable)
Heritage Building Solutions Pty Ltd	Construction of MMPHC Palliative Care Unit	\$283,376	N/A
Roadways Pty Ltd	Sealing Program 2010-11	\$391,367	

Donation of Land Statement

(Under the *Local Government Act 1993*)

Section 72 (1) (da) requires Council to report on details of any land donated by Council during the year.

Council made not such donations of land.

Enterprise Power Statement

(Under the *Local Government Act 1993*)

Section 72 (1) (ca) requires Council to provide a statement of activities and performance of the Council in relation to any activity undertaken pursuant to section 21 of the *Local Government Act 1993* 'Enterprise Powers'.

During the financial year, the Southern Midlands Council established two separate entities associated with the creation of the Centre for Colonial Heritage Conservation and Restoration:

- c) a proprietary company which will operate the 'Services Arm' – Heritage Building Solutions Pty Ltd – commenced operation 19/7/10; and
- d) a company limited by guarantee to operate the 'Education Arm' – Heritage Education and Skills Centre Ltd – commenced operation 28/7/2010.

The purpose of the respective Companies are as follows:

Heritage Building Solutions Pty Ltd

To commercially provide building services, primarily to the heritage property sector and to conserve and renovate heritage property for re-use.



Annual Report 2010-2011

This includes:

- Conservation & Restoration Building Works;
- Professional Services Brokering;
- Heritage Building Redevelopment;
- Building services to Southern Midlands Council;
- Commercial building services;
- Production of architectural fittings; and
- Joinery workshop production items.

Heritage Education and Skills Centre Ltd

To promote and facilitate the conservation and restoration of heritage properties and the development and the application of associated knowledge and skills.

This includes:

- Education and training - Apprentice and post trade training; Field work and structured experience; Property owner training; Professional training; and Visitor education.
- Research into - Conservation & Restoration Techniques; Building re-use technologies and best practice; Heritage/Archaeology; and Interpretation.
- Funding Heritage conservation and restoration activities – sourcing external funds and gifts”

The financial performance of these entities are reported in the set of Financial Statements.

Remuneration Statement

(Under the *Local Government Act 1993*)

The following table provides the remuneration for those positions designated by Council as senior positions, as required under the *Local Government Act 1993*. The positions of General Manager, Manager – Development and Environmental Services, Manager – Community and Corporate Development, Manager – Works and Technical Services and Manager – Corporate Services have been defined as senior positions by the Southern Midlands Council.

Remuneration Band	Number of Positions
\$ 71,000 - \$ 90,000	2
\$ 91,000 - \$110,000	1
\$111,000 - \$130,000	1
\$131,000 - \$150,000	1



Reporting on Community Involvement

2010/2011 Grants and Assistance

<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>\$ Exc GST if applicable</u>
Emma Watkins	Australian Darts Championships Representative	\$ 100.00
Ms A Saunders	State Representative U15 Soccer Championships	\$ 100.00
Wholly Horses	Wholly Horses Launch 1/8/2010	\$ 250.00
Tunnack Progress Association	Public Liability Insurance 50% Reimbursement	\$ 475.90
M.I.L.E	Financial Assistance 2010/11	\$ 2,500.00
M.I.L.E	Parterre Garden Rate Remission	\$ 265.65
Oatlands Spring Festival	Annual Donation	\$ 1,000.00
Bagdad Primary School	Annual Donation	\$ 50.00
Campania District High School	Annual Donation	\$ 150.00
Kempton Primary School	Annual Donation	\$ 50.00
Levendale Primary School	Annual Donation	\$ 50.00
Oatlands District High School	Annual Donation	\$ 150.00
Midlands Multi Purpose Health Centre	Quilting Group Palliative Care Unit	\$ 2,000.00
Ten Days on The Island	Ten days on the Island Event	\$ 1,000.00
Oatlands District Football Club	ODFA Sponsorship	\$ 120.00
Heritage Highway Tourism Region Association	Financial Assistance 2010-11	\$12,000.00
Runnymede Cricket Club	Financial Assistance 2009/10	\$ 400.00
Runnymede Cricket Club	Financial Assistance 2010/11	\$ 400.00
Heart Foundation Tasmania	Donation Keep Moving Program	\$ 200.00
Bagdad Child Care Centre	Funding Assistance 2009-2010	\$ 3,750.00
Oatlands Child Care Centre	Funding Assistance 2009-2010	\$ 6,250.00
Midlands Initiative for Local Enterprise (MILE)	Bush Buddies (Fuel) Project	\$ 750.00
Woodsdale Men's Shed	Shed expansion	\$ 3,000.00
Imagine Campania Youth Group	Community Network Project Newsletter	\$ 2,200.00
Bagdad Community Playgroup	New Toys & Equipment	\$ 800.00
Friends of Tunnack	Tunnack Book	\$ 3,000.00
Bagdad Historical Group	Bagdad History Website	\$ 670.00
Jericho Volunteer Fire Brigade	Painting Jericho Hall	\$ 2,500.00
Midlands Matters	Midlands Matters Website	\$ 2,500.00
Campania District High School	Women in Focus Program	\$ 2,080.00
Campania Hall Mgt Committee	Chairs for Campania War Memorial Hall	\$ 2,500.00