



# Newsletter

ISSUE 4 | December 2024

## From the Mayor's Desk

Christmas rapidly approaches as we end another busy year for Council. A "steady as she goes" approach to our work continues, but we are always alert to developments in local government that might benefit our ratepayers in the long term. As a member of the Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority, our council has worked to reform this body into a new collaborative network with a secretariat under Regional Development Australia (Tasmania). This will provide an active forum, with better connection to Federal and State Governments, to progress issues of concern to our district. The Southern Midlands Council Australia Day Awards will be awarded to:

- Rick Birch (Citizen of the Year)
- Mia Barwick (Young Citizen of the Year)
- Heritage & Bullock Festival 2024 (Community Event of the Year)

There will be a gathering for all community members at the Oatlands Aquatic Centre with free entry and sausage sizzle on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2025 to congratulate these very worth winners. On that day we will also celebrate the organisations that have received the Councils Community Small Grants awards.

As always, I am looking forward to representing Council at the end of the year assemblies at our schools in Oatlands, Campania, Kempton and Bagdad and meeting our future leaders there.

The schedule of Council meetings is in this newsletter and I remind ratepayers that these meetings are open to the public. I invite you to attend and gain an increased understanding and interest in how your council operates. I hope some of you will expand that interest to consider nominating for Council at the 2026 Election.

Finally, I must congratulate the organisers of the Oatlands Christmas Pageant and the Kempton Community Church "Carols by Candlelight" events. These events were well attended and provided much Christmas joy for all. Such functions are all part of the fabric of our municipality, which makes it a great place to live.

Merry Christmas!

Clr E Batt, Mayor



Southern Midlands Council

## AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS

SUNDAY, 26<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2025

Family Day at Oatlands Aquatic Centre

Free pool entry 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Free sausage sizzle!

*Congratulations to the following recipients who will be presented Australia Day Awards by Mayor Edwin Batt*

Citizen of the Year:	Rick Birch
Young Citizen of the Year:	Mia Barwick
Community Event of the Year:	Heritage & Bullock Festival 2024

ALL WELCOME

**We're all part of the story.** Australia Day  
Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.

## State Emergency Service Life Membership



On Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December Jason Robins received Life Membership with the SES.

Jason commenced as a volunteer member with the Tasmania State Emergency Service in 1994, joining the Southern Midlands SES Unit and becoming the

Southern Midlands SES Unit Manager in 2008.

Jason is a highly experienced SES member that has obtained considerable skills in the road crash rescue, general rescue, storm response, and roping and land search areas. He is also an experienced unit trainer and assists in regional training activities. He has volunteered his time to assist SES Regional Staff train other units in road crash rescue and chainsaw operations.

Jason was awarded the Emergency Services Medal (ESM) in 2021, an award that recognises those that have rendered distinguished service as a member of an Australian emergency service.

Jason has demonstrated superior dedication and community to the Tasmanian State Emergency Service, and to the community during his career of over 30 years.

### Do you like platypus? Then get rid of the introduced weed Cumbungi!

Life in the wild for the average Tasmanian platypus can be challenging. Setting aside the usual causes of mortality including disease, dogs and cats, discarded litter, illegal fishing/traps, and being run over by vehicles. Platypus are also vulnerable to habitat loss and degradation.

If you are lucky enough to have long creeks on your land with pools, suitable banks, good riparian (stream side) vegetation and flowing water, you should have platypus as residents. If however, you allow the introduced bulrush/cumbungi (*Typha latifolia*) to infest your dams and waterways, eventually *there will not be any platypus in your creek*. Think about it; platypus need to be able to dive and filter the stream beds to feed. If they can't even get into the water due to wall-to-wall cumbungi, then that stretch of waterway is not suitable habitat for this animal.

Even if you don't have platypus in your waterways, please consider doing Cumbungi control to improve habitat for other animals. Cumbungi will grow in water to around 2m deep and it will rapidly take over the entire surface of the water (especially in areas without shade). Cut off all leaves to below water level, and do that a few times each summer to keep them at bay.

Curious to learn more about platypus? Please see the Tasmanian Department of Natural Resources and Environment website for some excellent information in the Tasmanian Platypus Conservation Guidelines.



### Oatlands Village Square Development Creating a Vibrant Civic and Cultural Heart

Readers will recall that the *Oatlands Structure Plan (Sept 2021)* supported the community view in the development of a civic square in Oatlands as a focal point in the Village and that it should be in front of Roche Hall and connected to the Council Chambers site.

We have a once in a century opportunity to reimagine the area to create a new focal point and heart of the Village, for residents and visitors alike. It will reinforce the status of Oatlands as the preeminent historic Georgian village in Australia and also builds on our emerging reputation as a centre of cultural significance.



A Project Inception Meeting was held on the 11 December 2024, to scope the project and understand the implications of other peripheral issues that would likely impact on the Village Square development. These issues include: remedying the poor geometry of Stutzer Street (in providing access to the side entrance of the Council Chamber); disability parking; and should Stutzer Street be 'cut off' between High Street and the side entrance to the Council Chambers. It is early days and we need to work through all such matters by researching options and also understanding community expectations.

It was a strong view of the meeting that community consultation is core to the success of the project. The first part of the consultation will be flagging all of the issues and seeking your views on a way forward. We have allowed a considerable amount of time for the overall research and design process. We are looking at June 2026 as the extent of the project design/consultation timeline.

It is crucial that we are extremely sensitive with the design to ensure that we honour and respect our wonderful Georgian Village with this proposed civic and cultural space.

Our Team are looking forward to a partnership with the community in creating this significant focal point. Carpe Diem.



## CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR ARRANGEMENTS

### OFFICE CLOSURE (OATLANDS & KEMPTON)

The Municipal Offices at Oatlands & Kempton will close on Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> December at 2.00pm and re-open on Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2025 at 9.00am.

### WASTE TRANSFER STATIONS

Campania, Dysart & Oatlands Waste Transfer Stations will be closed on Christmas Day.

### GARBAGE COLLECTION

Location	Original Schedule	Updated Collection
Bagdad / Mangalore / Pontville	Wednesday, 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2025	Tuesday, 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2024
Dysart / Kempton / Melton Mowbray / Broadmarsh / Elderslie	Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> December 2024	Tuesday, 24 <sup>th</sup> December 2024
Campania / Colebrook / Woodsdale / Levendale	No Change	
Oatlands / Tunbridge / Jericho	No Change	

### OATLANDS AQUATIC CENTRE

Closed on Christmas Day.

*The Mayor, Councillors & Staff of Southern Midlands Council wish all residents a happy and safe Christmas & New Year!*



## 2025 Council Meeting Schedule

DATE	VENUE	TIME
Wednesday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2025	Tunnack Hall 2147 Tunnack Main Road, Tunnack	10.00 a.m. <i>Public Question Time 10.30 a.m.</i>
Tuesday, 25 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	Tunbridge Hall 99 Main Road, Tunbridge	10.00 a.m. <i>Public Question Time 10.30 a.m.</i>
Wednesday, 26 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	Campania Hall 45 Reeve Street, Campania	10.00 a.m. <i>Public Question Time 10.30 a.m.</i>
Wednesday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> April 2025	Levendale Community Hall 1325 Woodsdale Road, Levendale	10.00 a.m. <i>Public Question Time 10.30 a.m.</i>
Wednesday, 28 <sup>th</sup> May 2025	Broadmarsh / Elderslie Hall 1218 Elderslie Road, Broadmarsh	10.00 a.m. <i>Public Question Time 10.30 a.m.</i>
Wednesday, 25 <sup>th</sup> June 2025	Kempton Council Chambers 85 Main Street, Kempton	10.00 a.m. <i>Public Question Time 10.30 a.m.</i>
Wednesday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> July 2025	Oatlands Council Chambers 71 High Street, Oatlands	10.00 a.m. <i>Public Question Time 10.30 a.m.</i>
Wednesday, 27 <sup>th</sup> August 2025	Kempton Council Chambers 85 Main Street, Kempton	10.00 a.m. <i>Public Question Time 10.30 a.m.</i>
Wednesday, 24 <sup>th</sup> September 2025	Oatlands Council Chambers 71 High Street, Oatlands	10.00 a.m. <i>Public Question Time 10.30 a.m.</i>
Wednesday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> October 2025	Kempton Council Chambers 85 Main Street, Kempton	10.00 a.m. <i>Public Question Time 10.30 a.m.</i>
Wednesday, 26 <sup>th</sup> November 2025	Oatlands Council Chambers 71 High Street, Oatlands	10.00 a.m. <i>Public Question Time 10.30 a.m.</i>
Wednesday, 10 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	Kempton Council Chambers 85 Main Street, Kempton	2.00 p.m. <i>Public Question Time 2.30 p.m.</i>
<b>Annual General Meeting</b> Wednesday, 10 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	Kempton Council Chambers 85 Main Street, Kempton	5.00 p.m.

The Southern Midlands of Tasmania is where a blend of good old fashioned values and modern ideas co-exist. The Southern Midlands Council is a rural local government authority with approximately 3800 ratable properties and 6000 persons scattered throughout the districts.

Towns & localities include *Mangalore, Pontville, Bagdad, Broadmarsh, Elderslie, Dysart, Kempton, Melton Mowbray, Oatlands, Tunbridge, Tunnack, Parattah, Mt Seymour, Woodsdale, Levendale, Runnymede, Colebrook, Campania & Rekuna.*

## CONTACT US

### OATLANDS OFFICE 71 High Street, Oatlands 7120

General Managers Unit; Corporate Services, Infrastructure & Works,  
Natural Resource Management, Heritage Projects.

#### Customer Service Opening Hours:

Monday to Friday - 9.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

**Phone:** 03 6254 5000 (*Mon-Fri 8.30am - 5.00pm*)

**Fax:** 03 6254 5014

**Email:** [mail@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au](mailto:mail@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au)

**Web:** [www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au](http://www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au)

### KEMPTON OFFICE 85 Main Street, Kempton 7030

Development & Environmental Services and  
Community & Corporate Development

#### Customer Service Opening Hours:

Monday to Friday - 9.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

**Phone:** 03 6254 5050

**Fax:** 03 6254 5014

**Email:** [mail@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au](mailto:mail@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au)

### Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary

345 Chauncy Vale Road, Bagdad

**Phone:** 03 6254 5050

**Web:** [www.chauncyvale.com](http://www.chauncyvale.com)

**Email:** [mail@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au](mailto:mail@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au)

### OATLANDS AQUATIC CENTRE 70 High Street Oatlands

**Phone:** 6254 5024

**Email:** [oac@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au](mailto:oac@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au)

#### Opening Hours:

Monday—Friday 7.00 a.m.—7.00 p.m.

Sat 9.00 a.m.—5.00 p.m. Sunday 10.00 a.m.—5.00 p.m.

## WASTE TRANSFER STATION OPENING HOURS

### OATLANDS

#### WASTE TRANSFER STATION

Inglewood Road, Andover  
(Via Tunnack Main Road, Oatlands)

Tuesday 8.00 am - 12.00 noon

Friday 11.00 am - 3.00 pm

Saturday 8.00 am - 12.00 noon

Sunday 1.00 pm - 5.00 pm

### CAMPANIA

#### WASTE TRANSFER STATION

Brown Mountain Road, Campania

Tuesday 1.00 pm - 5.00 pm

Thursday 1.00 pm - 5.00 pm

Saturday 1.00 pm - 5.00 pm

Sunday 8.00 am - 12.00 pm

### DYSART

#### WASTE TRANSFER STATION

Huntingdon Tier Road, Dysart

Tuesday 1.00 pm - 5.00 pm

Saturday 1.00 pm - 5.00 pm

Sunday 1.00 pm - 5.00 pm

### Service Tasmania

71 High Street, Oatlands

**Phone 1300 13 55 13**

Monday to Friday **11.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.**

## COUNCILLORS—2024

Mayor & Councillor enquiries can be directed to  
Jemma Thomas (Executive Assistant) - 6254 5004 or  
via contact details below

Mayor Edwin Batt	0400 009 471	ebatt@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au	For all after hours <b>Water &amp; Sewerage TasWater</b> emergencies please phone <b>136 992</b>
Deputy Mayor Karen Dudgeon	0428 361 807	kdudgeon@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au	
Clr Tony Bisdee OAM	0418 355 158	abisdee@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au	For all after hours <b>Tasmanian Gas Pipeline</b> emergencies please phone <b>1800 195 666</b>
Clr Robert (Bob) Campbell	03 6255 5293	rcampbell@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au	
Clr Don Fish	03 6255 5157	dfish@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au	For all road issues relating to the <b>Midland Highway,</b> <b>Mudwalls Road or Tunnack</b> <b>Main Road</b> please phone Dept. of State Growth on <b>1300 139 933</b>
Clr Donna Blackwell	0408 146 754	dblackwell@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au	
Clr Fraser Miller	0497 611 777	fmiller@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au	

## AFTER HOURS

Council emergencies  
please phone

**0419 325 405**