



Newsletter

ISSUE 1 | February 2025



From the Mayor's Desk

The onset of Autumn is always marked with Council holding its monthly meeting at Tunbridge.

How pleasing it was to be able to enter the township from the northern end over the re-opened Tunbridge Bridge. It was pleasing to receive feedback from the community on the satisfaction that the Tunbridge Bridge has been reopened. As the oldest timber-decked bridge in Australia, it is a great achievement that the restoration of the bridge has been undertaken by the Department of State Growth to such a high standard of heritage conservation. As an icon of the heritage of Tunbridge, it is fantastic to see the amenity and heritage values of the bridge safeguarded for many years to come.

I am able to report that Council's road reconstruction and resealing program for 2024-25 is now complete. This includes the major project on Interlaken Road which will be a lasting boost to transport in the area.

I would like to thank residents and road users where those works were carried out for their patience and compliance with our safety directions.

These roads represent the workplace of many of our council employees. Keeping them safe at work is a high Council priority, requiring your cooperation for which we thank you.

Council has been continuing with its works preparing the Bagdad Mangalore Structure Plan. The participation of community members at the consultation meetings has been most helpful and council will look forward to your continued feedback when the final report is on hand.

The recent fire in Jericho is a reminder that the fire season is still with us and ratepayers are reminded to pay attention to fire hazards on their property.

Council expresses its thanks to the brigades that turned out to the fire.

Commendations to both Kate Gillham (Campania) and Adam Jones (Jericho) in the recent Australia Day Awards as recipients of the Australian Fire Service Medal. They have given us great service from their respective brigades within our municipality.

Council has considered the issue of speeding in High Street Oatlands with the assistance of data from a traffic counter device which monitored up to 2000 vehicle movements per day over the summer period.

With only some minor exceptions, it transpires that speeding in this area is not a problem and that changing the current limit of 50km/h (40km/h in the school zone) was not warranted.

The Kempton Festival again was a great success. The organisers must be congratulated for making this such a fun event, whilst raising funds for local projects. The event was held on the Kempton Recreation Ground which council has recently upgraded to provide a top quality surface for the coming football season. I would like to encourage all families of our municipality to engage in community sport, especially encouraging our juniors to participate.

The Central Hawks Junior Football Club is currently taking registrations and Council is always pleased to lend its support to these clubs.

However, sport is not only for the young! A superb game of lawn bowls was played at the Oatlands Bowls Club on Sunday 23rd February. The Club Singles Championship final, between Greg Cornish and Peter Gangell was a spectator's delight and played in fine spirit. Peter Gangell ultimately overcame his rival to win by a relatively close margin.

Keep Active and Keep Fit!

Remember the pool at Oatlands is a marvelous facility for both recreation and fitness. From a Council perspective it is pleasing that figures show a surge in usage whilst costs are being contained. I commend the Aquatic Centre staff for all their work.

Clr E Batt, Mayor

Oatlands Aquatic Centre BBQ Facilities

Following construction of the new BBQ area at the Oatlands Aquatic Centre, it is now available for use. Bookings are not required



Oatlands Welcomes the Highland Gathering of the Pipes & Drums

Join us! On Saturday 5th April 2025 from 0930 to 1630, in Callington Park, Oatlands, Pipe Bands Australia (Tas Branch) will be holding its State Championships, consisting of bands, solo drummer, solo piper and Drum Major competitions. This will be a spectacle which we hope will grow into an annual event. Whilst there have been Pipe Bands at the Heritage & Bullock Festival, this is a first time for the Massed Bands to parade in the streets of Oatlands.

If you enjoy the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, you will certainly enjoy the Oatlands Highland Gathering, the image below shows the Massed Bands at the Braemar Gathering in Fife Scotland, what a magic sight it will be in Oatlands.



If you have Gaelic, Celtic, or Scottish ancestry, join us, after pressing your kilts, tuning your bagpipes, and donning your tartans. Even if you have no ancestral connections, come dressed for the occasion even if you just love the sound of the pipes and drums.

A Highland Gathering links very well to the heritage of Oatlands, given there were various Scottish and Irish Regiments, along with their Pipers and Drummers that called Oatlands their Regimental Barracks throughout the 1800s. In fact, one of the streets that the massed bands will march along is Barrack Street, which is part

of the former Oatlands Military Precinct. The sound of the Massed Bands playing *Scotland the Brave*, along with the *Black Bear*, which is the traditional music they play when the Regiments march back to barracks of an evening. I am sure it will bring smiles and great pleasure to the assembled crowds.

Whilst this is a Pipe Bands Australia event, Council will be partnering with them to support the event in a logistical sense whilst they are in Oatlands. Callington Mill Distillery have also offered to provide sponsorship for the event.

With a history stretching back as far as the 11th Century, Scottish whisky, also known as Scotch, is an important part of the Scottish and Celtic identity and a perfect fit for a Highland Gathering. I am sure with Callington Mill Distillery's award winning distillery design and award winning Whisky it will provide a wonderful and unique connection for the event.



Like to know more information about this exciting event? Contact Andrew Benson at abenson@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au.

Weeds on the Move

You may have noticed a couple of roadside weeds that are really starting to get around the district. Great mullein (also known as Shepherd's blanket, Blanket weed, Mullein, Aaron's rod, Jacob's staff, Shepherd's club, Devil's tobacco, Flannel plant, Hag tamper, Velvet plant, Woolly mullein, Big taper, Hedge taper, Velvet-leaf, Candlewick, Iceleaf) and Wild mignonette (also known as Dyer's rocket, Dyer's weed, Weld, Yellow weed). Both are popping up along roadworks, in drains and culverts, roadside stopovers, road verges and other disturbed sites. Great mullein can grow 1 – 3m high, and it has small yellow flowers clustered towards the top of the spike. Wild mignonette can grow to around 1.5m. Both plants produce copious amounts of seed; Great mullein up to 240,000 seeds per plant, some of which can last 100 years! Neither is a declared weed in Tasmania, but we have enough weeds to deal with in the Southern Midlands, so the last thing we need is more of them. Please check out the weedsAUSTRALIA website for more information on these weeds, including control methods.



Great mullein seedling (*Verbascum Thapsus*)



Wild mignonette (*Reseda luteola*)

Pick Up After Your Dog!

When visiting our Kempton dog park, it is important to clean up after your dog — not just for hygiene, but for the health and enjoyment of everyone.

🐾 Dog waste can carry harmful bacteria and parasites that put other dogs and people at risk.

🐾 A clean park means a more pleasant experience for all our visitors.

🐾 Failing to pick up after your dog can result in an infringement being issued in accordance with the *Dog Control Act 2000*.

Let's all do our part to keep our dog park clean, safe, and welcoming for everyone. Pick up after your dog - it's just good manners!



Update on Old Oatlands Swimming Pool Demolition

The demolition of the old Oatlands swimming pool has commenced, with permits issued by Council (as planning authority) and the Tasmanian Heritage Council. The pool buildings and minor infrastructure have been removed, with work to commence on the pool itself in late February/early March.

Council has engaged an independent surveyor to manage a monitoring control system for any building movement during the demolition works at the site. This will involve:

- Installation of survey markers on all buildings surrounding the site (including the gaol walls).
- Undertake an initial baseline survey to match later survey data.
- Undertake a survey during the course of works.
- Undertake a final survey upon the conclusion of works.

That data will be independently processed by the surveyor to check for any building movement during the course of works. It is proposed that the works will take around 3 weeks.

In addition, Council has engaged a consultant to install monitoring equipment to monitor vibration during the works and provide live notifications in the event that vibrations exceed the industry standard, so that work can cease should that be the case.

The survey and vibration equipment installation is required before the demolition of the in-ground pool structure itself.

Japanese Academics Visit Oatlands

Council's Deputy General Manager (Andrew Benson) recently hosted four Japanese visitors at Oatlands over three days.

The visitors, Professor Emeritus Masakazu Tani, PhD, Kyushu University; Associate Professor, Doctor of Design, Ryo Abe PhD, Tokyo University of the Arts; Shingei, Research Assistant and Tara Watzl, an Architectural student at UTAS, participated in a full itinerary and from all observations the outcomes were really meaningful for their research. They had targeted Richmond, Evandale and Oatlands as their research locations.

The objectives of the Visit by Ryo Abe PhD were described as follows:

1. We have recently been paying attention to the increasing number of people moving from urban areas to nature-rich rural regions in search of a new lifestyle.
2. In Japan, this trend began even before the COVID-19 pandemic, and we are interested in comparing it with the situation in Australia.
3. Therefore, we are conducting research to determine whether the influx of migrants with new lifestyles is changing the traditional townscapes of Tasmania.
4. Additionally, we are focusing on how the new lifestyles and businesses of these migrants are creating new value in Tasmania and traditional towns.

Topics of interest:

- The increasing trend of urban-to-rural migration in Oatlands
- Case studies and key figures in lifestyle businesses that are generating new value into Oatlands (the founder of the whisky distributor for example)
- Cases where changes in townscapes are particularly noticeable.

Council would like to acknowledge and thank all individuals and business representatives that participated in the itinerary and made our visitors extremely welcome and grateful.



Callington Park – Toilet Block

The unisex disabled toilet at Callington Park was opened on Thursday 13th February 2025 and is already being appreciated by many users. In fact, there was a call out for more toilet paper over the first weekend it was opened. The toilet also has a baby change table - a feature previously requested to support visiting families.

The need for a toilet was apparent when the playground opened in late 2020. Families with small children were having to walk a long way and cross a street to use the foreshore toilet.

It will now be much easier and safer for families and visitors because they can stay within Callington Park and enjoy all the facilities, which includes the popular the BBQ hut.

Council would like to thank and acknowledge the Tasmanian Government for supporting the development of the toilet block - it is an important community asset.



Community Events

If you are planning a community event please contact Council to determine whether a place of Assembly application is required.

Under the *Public Health Act 1997*, Place of Assembly is defined as a mass outdoor public event:

- Mass – means one thousand people or more, present for two hours or more
- Public event – includes festival, food festival, circus, pageant, regatta, sports event, dance etc.

If an application is required, this will need to be lodged 20 working days prior to the scheduled event.

Please contact Council's Community Development Officer (Jo Rowley) for further information:

jrowley@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au or phone 03 62 545062

Open House Comes to the Southern Midlands

Southern Midlands Council is teaming up with the Architects Institute of Australia (AIA) to coordinate 'Open House Southern Midlands' in November 2025.

The program aims to showcase our unique and amazing heritage by inviting visitors to experience heritage buildings in the midlands over the course of one weekend, 1st & 2nd November 2025. The program, based on the very successful Open House Hobart model, works by providing set times over the weekend for participants to visit each property and discover the unique stories associated with these places.

If you own a heritage building – or indeed any building that is architecturally interesting, or has a story attached to it - and would like to participate, the Architects Institute will provide trained Open House volunteers to help you manage visitors, with volunteers situated both inside and out. Owners can choose to allow visitors access inside their homes or a guided tour from the outside.

We are also looking for volunteers to help with tours, no special knowledge is required just enthusiasm for our unique heritage.

This program relies on the generosity of building owners and we would be delighted if heritage building owners choose to participate. For an idea of how this works and a look at previous events, visit the website at <https://openhousehobart.org/>

If you would like to participate, please contact Jennifer Nichols at jennifer.nichols@architecture.com.au



Southern Midlands Council School Holiday Program

Another successful school holiday program was held in January with children visiting the Tasmanian Transport Museum in Glenorchy and participating at Tas Laser Skirmish at Kingston.

The museum has a number of restored fire engines and trains which resulted in a lot of interesting questions from the kids and 2 miniature railways- one with a lot of rats! The visit also included a train ride on an 85 year old train which decided not to behave so we had an extended wait on it while repairs were made- not that anyone minded. We finished the day at the newly updated Giblins reserve.

The older kids enjoyed two hours of Laser Skirmishes, trying to outsmart the opposing team. The bush setting made for interesting tactics and plenty of running between trees and shelters. Was exhausting to watch! We then headed to Kingston Park which is definitely a destination playground, well worth visiting.

Keep an eye out for the next program, either on Council's Facebook page or your school newsletter.



Bagdad Mangalore Structure Plan Co Design Workshop

Council staff in conjunction with its consultants *Jensen Plus* undertook a co-design workshop at the Bagdad Community Club on 19-20th February 2025. The purpose of a structure plan is to define council's preferred direction of future growth within the Bagdad- Mangalore valley for the next 30 years. The workshops involved determining where development could occur, infrastructure constraints and opportunities, improved connectivity as well as planning constraints, e.g. inundation, bush-fire, agricultural land. The workshop targeted key landowners, business owners, residents and state agencies (TasWater, TasNetworks & Department of State Growth).

The community drop-in sessions were well attended, and Council's consultants will provide a draft report for further public consultation in June 2025.

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

Web: 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

Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary

345 Chauncy Vale Road, Bagdad

Phone: 03 6254 5050

Web: www.chauncyvale.com

Email: mail@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au

OATLANDS AQUATIC CENTRE 70 High Street Oatlands

Phone: 6254 5024

Email: 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—2025

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

AFTER HOURS

Council emergencies
please phone

0419 325 405

**For all after hours
Water & Sewerage TasWater
emergencies
please phone 136 992**

**For all after hours
Tasmanian Gas Pipeline
emergencies
please phone 1800 195 666**

**For all road issues relating to
the Midland Highway,
Mudwalls Road or Tunnack
Main Road please phone
Dept. of State Growth
on 1300 139 933**