



# Newsletter

Issue 3 | August 2024



## *From the Mayor's Desk*

**Cllr E Batt, Mayor**

Following recent completion of the Community Infrastructure Plan, Council is acting on a number of the key recommendations and priorities. We are preparing more detailed concept plans and cost estimates for the upgrade of a range of our sporting and recreation facilities identified in the plan.

In regard to actual 'on-ground' works, Council is awaiting adoption of the State Government Budget and confirmation that the commitments provided through the election campaign will be funded. Some of these projects are detailed in the 2024/25 Schedule of Capital Works that is incorporated in this Newsletter.

When you receive this Newsletter, the Grand Final of the Oatlands District Football Association will have been held and I do take this opportunity to congratulate the Association executives and the member teams on what has been another extremely successful season. The amount of hours spent by the many volunteers that support the member Clubs and the Central Hawks Junior Football Club cannot be underestimated and it is greatly appreciated.

Past newsletters have confirmed that the Southern Midlands Council received \$5,346,180 under the 'Remote Roads Upgrade Pilot Program', which together with Council's contribution, which will see approximately 10 kilometers of the Interlaken Road constructed and sealed. This project is roughly 70% complete with the final seal to be applied during the summer period.

From my perspective, there are a number of other highlights this winter that are worthy of mention. They include:

- The recent opening of the upgraded Broadmarsh Community Hall (The Haven) which received major funding through the Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grant Program.
- The Accommodation Units for visiting Medical Specialist in Church Street, Oatlands are nearing completion. This \$500,000 project would not have been possible without major donations from the Midlands Multi-Purpose Health Centre Auxiliary (\$100,000); the MMPHC Community Advisory Committee (\$100,000) and the Tasmanian Government (\$200,000)

Finally, noting that a separate article relating to the Oatlands Heritage & Bullock Festival forms part of this Newsletter, I just wish to congratulate all those persons who dedicated numerous hours to organising this extremely popular event that showcases what Oatlands and the midlands has to offer.

## **Rates Information 2024/2025**

Your rates bill is made up of general rates and other services.

### **The items that appear on your rates bill are:**

- General Rates
- Waste Management Charge
- Garbage Collection (if applicable); and
- the State Government Fire Service Levy

### **How are my rates calculated?**

The General Rate is calculated based on each rateable property's Assessed Annual Value (AAV). The AAV is determined by the Tasmanian Valuer General and is based on the estimated annual income the owner would obtain from renting the property.

The Waste Management Charge is a standard charge levied on all rateable properties. It covers the cost of operating the Waste Transfer Stations, including the transfer and disposal of the waste and recyclables.

The Garbage Collection charge is only applied where a service is provided to the property. The fortnightly service provides for the collection of a 240 litre general waste wheelie bin and 240 litre recycling wheelie bin.

The Fire Service Levy is collected on behalf of the State Government to contribute towards the funding of the Fire Commission and is applied based on various fire districts.

### **Instalment Dates and Methods for Payment**

Council rates are payable in four instalments which are listed on the Notice of Rates and Charges. The various methods for payment are also shown on the Notice.

### **Discount**

A discount of 2.0% will apply to all rates and charges paid by 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024, being the due date of the first instalment. This discount is not applicable to rates and charges which are paid in instalments. The payment due dates will appear on the rates notice.

### **Late Payments**

A penalty of 5% applies to any rate or charge that is not paid on or before the date it falls due.

### **Interest**

In addition to the penalty, interest under section 128 of the *Local Government Act 1993* will be charged at the rate of 6.8% per annum.

### **Receive your rates notice by email**

You can now choose to receive your rates notice by email instead of by mail. This allows you to easily access, print and reprint notices, conveniently store notices electronically, and receive your notice promptly

### **Sign up for email notices**

You can sign up to receive your rates notice via email by visiting the Southern Midlands Council website [www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au/council-forms-property-rates/](http://www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au/council-forms-property-rates/)

### Unwanted Cats

Abandoned and feral cats in the Southern Midlands are creating problems for farmers. One of the key problems is cats can carry parasites which affect sheep. *Toxoplasmosis* is a gut parasite of cats that can cause abortion in ewes, and *Sarcocystis* is a protozoan organism which causes cysts in around 18% of sheep processed in Tasmanian abattoirs. The majority of affected carcasses can be trimmed, but 3% of these are so badly affected the meat is condemned. Sheep can be vaccinated against *Toxoplasmosis*, but not against *Sarcocystis*.

If you are unable to keep your cat, please contact a cat management facility (eg. Ten Lives or Just Cats) to surrender your animal. The cat, farmers and local wildlife will appreciate your consideration.

According to an article published in *Animals (Basel)* in June 2023, and covering Australia-wide research undertaken during 2018-19, there were 4731 cats surrendered to cat management facilities in Tasmania. Of the unclaimed animals, a total of 86% were rehomed (the highest percentage in Australia at the time). The remainder (14%) were euthanised (equal lowest with ACT). Those numbers are a positive endorsement of the very hard work undertaken by everyone connected with the various cat management facilities in Tasmania.

Cat management facilities are available to assist; please just call them if you need to rehome your cat.

### Does my dog have to be registered with both my Council and an animal microchip registry?

Yes, the law says your dog has to be registered with council and be microchipped.

The council registration disc that your dog wears on its collar and the microchip will both be used to help the council return your dog to you if your dog gets lost, strays or is impounded by a Council Officer.

Microchipping is a good back-up to ensure that your dog can be identified and returned to you quickly. If your dog is stolen, a collar and registration disc can be easily removed. Make sure your dog is both registered and microchipped to ensure their safety. Council will be conducting checks throughout the month of September.

### Thistles, Thistles, Thistles!

When someone mentions thistles, do you automatically think of the various types of spiny thistles that infest thousands of paddocks around the state? **None of these are native!** Most of these weedy thistles are declared in Tasmania, and if you have these you need to be actively managing them to reduce and/or eradicate them from your land: Californian, cotton, nodding, saffron, slender, winged slender, and stemless thistles. Other declared thistles include African, star and artichoke thistles (but not globe artichokes). African and artichoke thistles have not been recorded within the Southern Midlands Council, and Star thistles were collected near Oatlands in November 1899, but have not been seen since. If you see African, artichoke or star thistles in your area, **please contact me urgently!** Mary Smyth, Weeds Officer.



African thistle  
(*Berkheya rigida*)  
Photo: iNaturalist



Artichoke thistle  
(*Cynara cardunculus*)  
Photo: Mark Imhof



Star thistle (*Centaurea calcitrapa*). Photo: Murray Fagg

## Australian Independent Care Services Pty Ltd



**Joanne Harris**  
0493 847 716  
joanne@aicservices.com.au

Australian Independent Care Services are here are ready to support and provide the Southern Midlands Areas with your NDIS needs .

If you are on a NDIS plan and needing assistance we can HELP.

We are locally owned and are connected to the community to support our family and friends . With qualified NDIS registered employees we can provide you with services such as Transport , Community Participation and Household Tasks.



**"We listen, We Action, We deliver"**





## Heritage & Bullock Festival – Oatlands

The images certainly tell the story! Through a careful analysis it is estimated that in the order of a little over 7,100 people attended the 2024 Festival over the two days. There were an estimated 952 volunteer hours provided in the planning, activities and closeout of the Festival. Brian Fish, Chairman of the Heritage & Bullock Festival said “The sheep shearing was a major hit as a ‘first timer’ at the Festival, as was the Artist in Residence, Harp Artisan Tim Sheed.” There were so many high points in the event that they are too numerous to mention in detail, however, suffice to say that everyone put in a major effort and should rightly be very proud of Oatlands and the Heritage & Bullock Festival 2024.

### The following contributions are greatly appreciated;

- The Festival Committee, they were a passionate and energetic group who worked together very well under the Chairmanship of Brian Fish.
- The owners of private property, in Oatlands that opened their sites to the public over the Festival weekend was tremendous.
- Senior Sergeant Mark Williams and his Team from Tasmania Police for their assistance and support for, and throughout the Festival.
- The various Community groups that participated and supported the Festival, including the Bullock Committee.
- The High Street Traders and indeed the whole Community embraced the spirit of the Festival, showcasing Oatlands to be a wonderful ‘living’ historic village.
- The exhibitors were a tremendous draw card and a crucial component of the Festival
- The Volunteers that participated in the Festival were amazing.
- The bakery at the Commissariat which was run by Athol Bennett & David Wells and family from the RT Fish Bakery has gone to assist into the furnishing of the soon to be completed locum doctor’s residences in Church Street.
- The Manager Infrastructure, David Richardson, Senior Works Coordinator, Craig Whatley along with their Team with a special mention to Tania and Stuart who had the Village mowed and clipped, looking a picture for visitors. Tania also did an amazing job over the weekend with bins and amenities.
- The Heritage Project Team provided tremendous support for the Festival in developing some innovative contributions for the 2024 Festival as well as showcasing the heritage buildings in Oatlands under their custodianship



Photos courtesy of Denise Smith





Photo courtesy of Andrew Benson

### Oatlands Aquatic Centre Sculpture Unveiled

'Inspire' is a fitting name for the sculpture creation by local Artist James McShane.

A two metre diameter Corten steel circle with a young lady swimming through the circular shape, metaphorically immersed in water swimming to the surface, with this all sitting on a very fine sandstone plinth. The sculpture was funded by Southern Midlands Council & TasWater. James McShane was assisted in the unveiling of the sculpture by Mayor Edwin Batt, the TasWater CEO, George Theo, along with Olympic gold medallist, Shane Gould AM, MBE, PhD.

At the unveiling, the Hon Jane Howlett MP, Minister for Primary Industry & Water, announced the State Government funding of Southern Midlands Council - Regional Lifeguard Accreditation Program, which is being implemented by the SWN Jobs Hub, Royal Lifesaving Tas and Rural Youth. The funding is for forty new lifeguards, to be trained over a two years period.

The Hon Kerry Vincent MLC was also present and presented a donation of nearly \$1,000 from the winding up of the Regional Learning & Development Centre – Levendale Inc., for a Learn to Swim Program.

Deputy General Manager, Andrew Benson, also acknowledged the funding of a new seat in the OAC forecourt by the Oatlands 7120 gardening group.

Amazing contributions to the Community!

### Bagdad Mangalore Structure Planning Project

Council has initiated a project to develop a new 'structure plan' for the Bagdad Mangalore valley. This is a strategy land use and development plan that will set out the long term future for area. It will be developed through expert external planners, with the full involvement of Council and the local community.

This will be an exciting opportunity for the local community to come together to develop a vision for the valley and to identify the actions that Council, (and others), need to take to achieve that vision.

Reasons to do the project are:

- The existing structure plan is 14 years old.
- The Southern Tasmania Regional Land Use Strategy is currently being reviewed, and local structure planning can link in with this broader process.
- The Midland Highway has been reduced from 100 kph to 80 kph, with a right turn waiting lane in the centre. This is a fundamental change.
- Representations received during the public notification of the Southern Midlands Local Provisions Schedule (our component of the Tasmanian Planning Scheme), lobbied for planning scheme amendments. These are best considered through an wholistic strategic planning lens.
- The whole area has run out of rural residential land.
- The location of new streets and roads, even if decades away need to be planned now.

### Grant Application Success

The Southern Midlands Council has recently received confirmation from the Tasmanian Government that it will receive the following grants for the purpose (as listed):

#### All Access All Weather Bus Stop Upgrade Program (Round 2)

- Reeve Street, Campania (outside No 34) - Shelter Installation; Tactile Installation and new Bus Stop Blade (\$26,246)
- High Street, Oatlands (outside No 62) – Footpath Upgrade; new Pole and Bus Stop Blade; Tactile Installation and futureproof for shelter installation (\$13,000)

#### Tasmanian Government – Vulnerable Road User Program

- Climie Street, Campania – Railway - Pedestrian Crossing (\$35,250)
- Reeve Street, Campania - Footpath adjacent to Flour Mill Park (\$58,616)
- Reeve Street, Campania – Footpath adjacent to Recreation Ground (\$36,258)

#### Better Active Transport in Tasmania Grant Program (Round 2)

- Construct pathway connection between Kempton and Mood Food (\$278,000)

## CAPITAL BUDGET PROJECTS – 2024/2025

Council has allocated a total of \$10,189,360 million in Capital Works for the 2024/25 financial year. Some of this funding is financed through grants from both Federal and State Governments. This amount does not include projects that have been delayed and carried forward from the previous financial year.

ROADS PROGRAM		WALKWAYS / STREETSCAPE	
Gravel Roads – Resheeting Program	\$ 700,000	Footpaths (General)	\$ 40,000
Sealed Roads – Resealing Program	\$ 571,500	Bagdad - Midland Highway (Pathway upgrade –Additional Funding)	\$ 280,000
Sealed Roads – Edge Breaks	\$ 300,000	Campania - Climie Street (Across Railway Line)	\$ 41,250
<b>Road Reconstruction Projects:</b>		Campania - Reeve Street (Adjacent to Four Mill Park)	\$ 100,209
Colebrook - Station Street	\$ 45,000	Campania - Reeve Street (Rec Ground to Villeneauve Street)	\$ 51,158
Kempton - Sugarloaf Road (150m)	\$ 28,875	Campania - Reeve Street (Bus Stop)	\$ 40,696
York Plains - York Plains Road (800m)	\$ 168,000	Kempton - Midland Highway (Burnett Street to Mood Food - Additional Funding)	\$ 278,000
Runnymede - Woodsdale Road (1500m)	\$ 288,750	Oatlands– High Street (Bus Stop)	\$ 28,300
<b>Junctions / Road Realignment / Other:</b>		RECREATION / COMMUNITY	
Andover - Nala Road Asphalt (Asphalt - Inglewood Road Junction)	\$ 30,000	Facilities & Recreation Committee	\$ 40,000
Campania - Car Park Improvements	\$ 67,600	Bagdad—Horfield Creek (Flood Mitigation Work)	\$ 59,800
Elderslie - Cliftonvale Road (Guard Rail 600m)	\$ 90,000	Mangalore– Recreation Ground (Dust Remediation & Trees)	\$ 5,000
Oatlands - Stanley Street (Shoulders/Drainage Midland Hwy to Nelson St)	\$ 35,000	Melton Mowbray – Memorial Park (Additional)	\$ 60,000
Oatlands - William Street (Shoulders/Drainage Wellington St towards Stanley St)	\$ 13,500	Oatlands– Aquatic Centre (Court Yard - Barbeque//Shelter)	\$ 30,000
Tunbridge - Main Street (Kerb & Gutter Renewal)	\$ 40,000	Oatlands—Off-lead Dog Park	\$ 35,000
York Plains - York Plains Road (Guard Rail 50m))	\$ 7,250	Stormwater System Management Plan (Urban Drainage act 2013)	\$ 50,000

**NOTE:** For a full listing of the 2024/25 Capital Expenditure Program Budget & Projects please go to:

[www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au/annual-plan-budgets/](http://www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au/annual-plan-budgets/)



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—2023

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

<b>Mayor Edwin Batt</b>	0400 009 471	<a href="mailto:ebatt@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au">ebatt@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au</a>	For all after hours <b>Water &amp; Sewerage TasWater</b> emergencies please phone <b>136 992</b>
<b>Deputy Mayor Karen Dudgeon</b>	0428 361 807	<a href="mailto:kdudgeon@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au">kdudgeon@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au</a>	
<b>Clr Tony Bisdee OAM</b>	0418 355 158	<a href="mailto:abisdee@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au">abisdee@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au</a>	For all after hours <b>Tasmanian Gas Pipeline</b> emergencies please phone <b>1800 195 666</b>
<b>Clr Robert (Bob) Campbell</b>	03 6255 5293	<a href="mailto:rcampbell@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au">rcampbell@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au</a>	
<b>Clr Don Fish</b>	03 6255 5157	<a href="mailto:mail@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au">mail@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au</a>	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>
<b>Clr Donna Blackwell</b>	0408 146 754	<a href="mailto:dblackwell@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au">dblackwell@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au</a>	
<b>Clr Fraser Miller</b>	0497 611 777	<a href="mailto:fmiller@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au">fmiller@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au</a>	

## AFTER HOURS

Council emergencies  
please phone

**0419 325 405**