Community and Youth Grants Program

Council’s Community and Youth Grants Program provides financial support to community groups and organisations within the Sorell Municipality.

Does your community group or sporting club:

• Have a special project or community event they would like to run?
• Need to purchase new equipment or resources?
• Want to improve access or usage of a community facility?

Then why not consider applying for a Community or Youth Grant to help make these ideas a reality?

Applications for the 2018/2019 Community and Youth Grants Program will open on 1 May 2018. Please see Council’s website for application forms and full details of the Grants Program - www.sorell.tas.gov.au/community/community-grant-program

Betty Spaulding retiring after 45 years service

Betty Spaulding began working at Sorell Council in 1970 as a cashier. She left in 1972 to have her son and a daughter followed in 1975. Whilst her children were young she worked on and off at Council, but returned full time in 1984. She moved from her position as Cashier to a Rates Clerk before moving into a Secretary/Personal Assistant to the General Manager role, a role which she remained in up until her retirement.

Betty says the phenomenal growth of the Municipality and the way technology changed Council processes were major features of her employment. She said she thoroughly enjoyed her career at Council, and engaging with the community was a highlight. She worked with five General Managers and dozens of Councillors.

Betty’s 45 years of service makes her the longest standing female employee on record at Sorell Council.

Sorell Council sincerely thanks Betty for her valued commitment and service and wishes her all the best for her well-deserved retirement. Her knowledge, experience and dedication will be missed.

Community Conversations

Council’s series of informal meetings with the community are continuing for 2018.

The Primrose Sands Community Conversation was held in mid-February and was once again very well supported by the community.

Join us for a chat with the Mayor, Councillors and General Manager about what’s happening in your local area.

18 April at 6.00pm
Dunalley Community Hall

28 June at 6.00pm
Sea Rescue, Dodges Ferry
Tiger Head Road

27 September at 6.00pm
Sorell Bowls Club
Parsonage Place, Sorell

Information discussed from all past meetings are available on Council’s website: www.sorell.tas.gov.au/community-conversations
Mayor’s Message

Welcome to the first edition of the Community News newsletter for 2018. It’s hard to believe we are halfway through April already.

A Steam Weed Killer has just arrived in our Municipality. Despite its menacing sounding name, this tool offers a proven safe, effective and cost efficient alternative to traditional chemical weed control sprays by killing broad leaf plants. It is a safe option for the environment, the community and also the operator. It will be used on weeds around the streets in our Townships. We have had many requests over the past few years regarding steam weed killer. Council has listened, investigated the technology and acted upon it. I look forward to seeing it in action over the coming months.

Council recently initiated a community consultation session at Sorell Skate Park regarding its future upgrade. The success of the community-led upgrade of the Dodges Ferry Skate Park was fantastic and hopefully this process can be repeated in Sorell. I was thrilled to see around 80 young people and their parents attend and share their views for the future of the site. Council has skate park designers in attendance to engage with the local youth who use the skate park and listen to their ideas and vision for the upgrade of the facility. A comprehensive, yet very sensible, wish list was requested - toilets, lights, shelter, water fountain and seating, a bowl, rails, ramps, half pipes and other ‘street skating’ items. Council will work with the skate park designers to use these ideas and requests to create a concept plan for the upgrade of the park. Once the concept plan is completed, Council will distribute this so our youth can again provide their feedback. This conceptual plan will form part of an application for grants to help fund the upgrade. Grant funding is required for the upgrade to happen and Council will look at various funding opportunities over the next 12 months. I was really pleased to see Council engaging with the local youth, and their enthusiasm in participating in the process was great to see.

The second stage of the Orielton Lagoon walk and cycle loop has commenced. This stage will see Montagu Street connect to Shark Point Road through Miena Park. Funding will be sought in 2018/2019 to complete the section from the Sorell Causeway through to Montagu Street. With only a few sections requiring work left, this fabulous walkway is nearing completion. We have received a lot of really positive feedback about this project from the community, and even from those further afield outside of our Municipality. The walkway is proving to be a wonderful community asset and provides numerous opportunities for health and wellbeing activities for the community. If you haven’t been out walking along the track lately then I encourage you to.

The Local Government Board’s review into potential voluntary amalgamation options for Sorell and Tasman Councils continues. We expect to receive recommendations for Councils consideration from the Minister for Local Government early in the new financial year. Whilst it’s not yet known what the recommendations may be, there is one thing that is certain – our Council has always had the best interest of the community at the centre of its decision making. As a Council, Sorell has been highly supportive of the Amalgamations process from the start. We feel strongly in our responsibility to the community to investigate the true facts about what amalgamations, shared services, or boundary readjustments might mean for our community. Our motivation has always been looking for the outcome that will result in the most financially sustainable Council possible for our community. I will keep you updated on this issue as the review progresses.

I look forward to recognising our community’s wonderful and hardworking volunteers at Council’s annual Volunteer Recognition event in May. A function is being held at the Sorell Memorial Hall on Thursday 24 May to celebrate all those people who “Give a little but change a lot.” See you there.

Mayor Kerry Vincent

Primrose Sands BBQ

A new BBQ has recently been installed at the park in Primrose Sands, adjacent to the Community Hall. It’s an electric, push start BBQ and is free for the community to use.

The BBQ was funded and installed by Council, with help from a generous $5,000 donation from Bendigo Sorell and Districts Community Bank. The new BBQ complements the fenced play area, picnic setting and exercise equipment which have been installed and upgraded over the past few years. Council is looking into further upgrades and improvements to the facility subject to annual budget considerations for all capital projects across the Municipal area.

Sunnyside Bridge Replacement

As previously advised, Council successfully applied for and received a 50% contribution from Round Three of the Federal Government’s Bridges Renewal Program to replace Sunnyside Bridge on Nugent Road.

The project will replace, widen and realign the approaches of the current two-lane wooden bridge with a new two-lane concrete bridge, extend the useful life of the bridge to 100 years and allow improved community and heavy vehicle access.

Preliminary assessments, including Aboriginal heritage and geological, have begun on the site, and land acquisition negotiations are also underway. The design and construction tender for the project will go out in the new financial year, with the bridge replacement likely to begin in early 2019.

We will keep you updated on this important project as plans progress.
**Australia Day Award Recipients**

Sorell Council’s 2018 Australia Day Awards were presented at the Sorell Memorial Hall on Thursday 25 January.

Council hosted Heather Francis as the Australia Day Ambassador and Stacey Loukis, Grant Woodward and Nigel Hope entertained the crowd with their smooth tunes. Two new citizens were also welcomed to our community in a Citizenship Ceremony performed on the night.

Nineteen quality individual and group nominations were received across the four Australia Day Award categories. The 2018 recipients recognised for their outstanding contribution to their community were:

- **Citizen of the Year:** Marsha Batchelor
- **Young Citizen of the Year:** Makayla Claxton
- **Community Group of the Year:** Southern Beaches Regional Arts
- **Community Event of the Year:** ‘Old Mates Day’

Council sincerely congratulates all the nominated individuals and groups for their well deserved recognition.

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**Community Transport News**

Council recently received a formal proposal from Community Transport Service Tasmania (CTST) to transition the Sorell Community Bus to CTST’s expanded services within the region.

Under CTST the bus will continue to be used to provide a general passenger service, but with a greater focus on addressing transport disadvantage in areas such as employment, education, health services, and social connectivity. The transition of the community bus to CTST will provide improved transport options for the community, with a significant increase to the service currently provided by Council.

CTST will continue to operate the Primrose Sands to Sorell route on Tuesdays and Thursdays without change.

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**Vandalism at Flyway Island**

The toilets at Flyway Island Park in Midway Point were recently the scene of vandalism and graffiti, two nights in a row.

The cistern was ripped from the wall, the baby change table destroyed and graffiti scrawled all over the walls. These damages cost around $2000 to repair. Council staff have provided CCTV footage of the event to the Police.

The last time Flyway Island toilets were vandalised the Police caught the offender from the CCTV footage provided by Council. That offender was required to pay their half of the damages bill.

Unfortunately, these are not isolated incidences. Graffiti and vandalism clean up and repairs cost Council tens of thousands of dollars each year.

This type of anti-social behaviour and destruction is totally unacceptable. Council has invested significant amounts of money to upgrade our community facilities over the past few years, so the disregard and lack of respect shown for our community infrastructure is extremely disappointing. We encourage everyone to respect our community assets and treat them appropriately.

Any residents who see people engaging in these acts can report it directly to the Police and call Council to report the damage.

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**Brinktop Road Reconstruction**

Approximately one kilometre of Brinktop Road (in the vicinity of number 445 adjacent to the vineyard) will be reconstructed. Works began in late March and are expected to take six - eight weeks.

Whilst the Contractor will endeavour to minimise delays throughout the works, we advise people who use Brinktop Road to allow extra travel time. Drivers are also asked to observe road signage and drive carefully.
Amalgamations Update

After the positive results from the South East Feasibility Study undertaken by KPMG in 2016 and the community survey undertaken by Sorell Council in 2017, Council approached the State Government to conduct further investigations into Council Amalgamations.

Accordingly, the Minister for Local Government authorised the Local Government Board to undertake a review into potential voluntary amalgamation options for Sorell and Tasman Councils.

The Review formally commenced in December 2017 and the scope of the Review is focusing on three options:
1. No change to Sorell and Tasman Councils
2. Further resource-sharing options
3. Merger of Sorell and Tasman Councils

The guiding principles for the Local Government Board Review include that reform must:
• Be in the interests of ratepayers;
• Improve the level of service for communities;
• Preserve and maintain local representation; and
• Ensure that the financial status of the entities is strengthened.

The Board conducted a public consultation phase from 24 February through to 6 April. Further due diligence will now be completed before the Board is required to provide its report to the Minister for Local Government by 30 May 2018.

Once reviewed, the Minister will then send the report and associated recommendations to both Councils for their considerations.

Dog Exercise Area at Dodges Ferry

Council has received requests for many years from Dodges Ferry residents for a local dog exercise area.

Council is pleased to notify residents that an enclosed off-lead dog exercise area is being built in the Dodges Ferry Recreation Reserve, at the site of the old horse-riding club.

The Dog Exercise Area will be open for the public to use in the coming months.

As is the case for the Sorell Dog Exercise Area at Pembroke Park, the following requirements for use will apply:
• Not all dogs are friendly – don’t let your dog rush up to other animals.
• Not all people want to interact with dogs – do not allow your dog to approach people without their consent.
• Dogs must be responsive to owner’s commands.
• When exercising your dog always carry a pooper, freezer or plastic bag to collect your dog’s waste and dispose of the waste responsibly. There is a rubbish bin at the entrance to the exercise area. In accordance with the Dog Control Act 2000 you are required to clean up after your dog. If your dog is caught leaving excrement in a public place and it is not removed, you may be issued with an infringement notice and be fined.

Your Councillors

Contact details for all Councillors can be found on our website www.sorell.tas.gov.au/contact-us

Contact Us

Address 47 Cole Street, Sorell
Telephone 6269 0000
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Any feedback about the newsletter is welcomed and can be forwarded to sorell.council@sorell.tas.gov.au