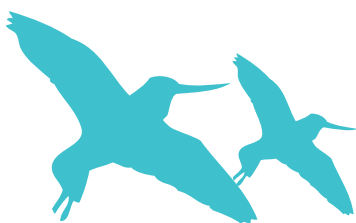


DECEMBER 2023

Sorell Community News

community coast country

www.sorell.tas.gov.au



Australia Day Awards

Have you made a nomination in our Australia Day Awards yet? There is still time!



These Awards are the highest honour Council can bestow on an individual or group for outstanding contributions to their local community. They provide us with an opportunity to recognise those in our community who make a significant contribution or have achieved something special in the past year.

Award categories are:

Citizen of the Year

Young Citizen of the Year

Community Group of the Year

Community Event of the Year

Full details and nominations are available online at www.sorell.tas.gov.au.

Nominations close at 5.00pm on Friday 12 January 2024.



South East Stadium Lego model by Ken Draeger

Brixhibition come to Sorell!

This year for the first time Brixhibition, Tasmania's premier LEGO exhibition event, came to Sorell! Held at the South East Stadium in October, 3735 people attended the two day event.

Organised by the Tasmanian Brick Enthusiasts Inc, there are three Brixhibition events held per year, one in each region of the State. Brixhibition is a fun, family oriented event showcasing LEGO creations made by Tasmanian LEGO fans. In conjunction with Brixhibition, the Club also coordinates the Primary Schools LEGO Building Challenge, which is open to all primary schools and community LEGO clubs within the southern region. The winning model from each participating school is then also displayed at Brixhibition.

Council supported the event with \$2,000 funding through the Community Grants Program. Well done to Tasmanian Brick Enthusiasts for such a wonderful event. We hope to have you back next year!

Merry Christmas from Sorell Council!

On behalf of the Mayor, Councillors and Staff at Sorell Council we wish you and your family a safe and healthy Christmas and New Year.

Please take note of the following information for Council services over the holiday period:

Council Closure: The Council Offices will be closed from 12 noon on Friday 22 December 2023 and re-open at 8.00am on Tuesday 2 January 2024.

Emergencies: In an emergency during the holiday period, please phone 6269 0000.

Kerbside Collections: Kerbside collection due for Christmas Day, 25 December, will instead take place on **Saturday 23 December 2023**. Please have your bins kerbside by 6.00am ready for collection. All other collections will take place as usual over the holiday period.





Mayor's Message

One of our biggest topics of discussion in Local Government over the past two years has been Local Government Reform.

The Local Government Board has now submitted its third, and final, report on the Future of Local Government Review to the Tasmanian Government. The Board has made 37 recommendations on how our current system needs to change so that Councils can meet the challenges and opportunities our communities will face in the next 20-30 years. You can read their recommendations in the Final Report on the Review website.

I've always been an advocate for sensible Local Government reform, supported by the majority of Sorell's Elected Members over a number of Council terms. I am strongly supportive of enhancing the long term sustainability and financial security of communities with an appropriately sized Council that has a commercially viable rate base. Contemporary Councils require an appropriately sized and diverse rate base with its associated income to be able to sustainably operate their core services and functions into the future. Whilst I appreciate the Government's commitment to investigating this issue, the time and effort that the Local Government Board has put into the review process and the opportunity provided for Councils and communities to provide input, I am disappointed at the softness of the Final Report. In my opinion, the Review hasn't delivered what I believe is really needed for Local Government reform. The suggested models and recommendations don't allow for the flexibility and vision that is required to develop and enhance communities into the future.

The suggestion of Sorell being part of an East Coast Council is something we will examine, but many of the points we raised in our submissions to the Board haven't been addressed in the recommendations. Having a solid asset base to be able to meet the expectations and requirements of our growing community can't be done without a substantially increased and diversified rate base. However, I will continue to engage in conversations and advocate for the best interests of our community.

The Government is inviting the community to have their say on the Final Report of the Future of Local Government Review. Open until February, I encourage everyone to head to the Review website to have your say on the future of your local Council - www.futurelocal.tas.gov.au

I continue to field questions regarding the duplication of the causeways. This significant project is currently running behind schedule but I can confirm that the funding is committed. Albeit slow, the project is progressing with regulatory and environmental assessments underway, including Aboriginal heritage. There have been divers in the water in recent weeks undertaking assessment of the seabed. Whilst we would all like to see this project started and finished as soon as possible, it's important that the correct processes are followed to ensure the causeways meet our needs now and into the future.

I acknowledge that the roadsides around the Sorell Bypass are looking very untidy and unloved. I've received many complaints about this and have been engaging with local members Jane Howlett and John Tucker to rectify the situation. Council Management have also liaised with the Department of State Growth, and they are aware that this needs rectifying and are working on plans to landscape the area to improve its look. We all believe that both roundabouts should enhance the entrance to Sorell and provide a vibrant welcome to the south east heartland. I will keep you updated on this as things progress.

Waste Management continues to be a hot topic. The Tasmanian Government's Waste Action Plan provides a framework for the best way to address Tasmania's waste and resource recovery challenges. The Plan identifies key actions the State Government will take, including establishing a legislated statewide landfill waste levy and the introduction of a Container Refund Scheme (CRS) in Tasmania. It's disappointing that the CRS isn't in service as yet, but it's necessary to work through and address the numerous administration and management issues to ensure the schemes ongoing and long term success. Fingers crossed for better news for the CRS in 2024.

The Southern Tasmanian Regional Waste Authority (STRWA) enables the 12 southern Councils, including Sorell, to work cooperatively on waste management, landfill diversion, and resource recovery projects. They're in the process of developing their Strategic Plan which will assist in guiding our southern Councils on the common goal of reducing waste to landfill through a variety of actions such as repair, refill, reuse, recycle, rethink, redefine, readdress etc. One

of the important actions to be developed is an education program covering all waste streams for school students, as well as the general community.

With all the changes currently happening in the Waste Management sector, Council is faced with a changing and challenging operating environment. In response, we endorsed the Waste Management Strategy in early 2023 with the aim of growing a sustainable community through proactive waste initiatives including minimising waste to landfill and increasing materials recovery.

This will result in some changes in our Waste Management Services. One of the Strategy's key actions is introduction of a kerbside food and organics collection service (FOGO). Diverting organic waste from landfill is one of the most significant actions Council can take to reduce its carbon footprint, as composting produces about 90% less greenhouse gas emissions than landfilling. The first step towards commencing a FOGO service is to roll out a monthly kerbside green waste 240L wheelie bin service for residential areas, from 1 July 2024. Council will soon be advertising a two year tender term for bulk green waste and hard waste collection services also commencing from 1 July 2024. Once tendered, the contract will determine the service level of green and hard waste, and whether the frequency of collection is two, three or four green waste collections per year and one or two hard waste collections per year. When the Government commences the CRS, our Recycling centres will be integrated into them.

I urge you to remember that waste is everyone's problem. Please don't be complacent. I know change is hard, but our attitudes and behaviours to reducing waste are essential in us addressing the issue, both individually and as a community, now and into the future.

The Government has established a working group to develop a more suitable Fire and Emergency Services Levy for our communities. I'm pleased to be a part of this group and believe we can develop a model that finds the right balance. More information on this issue will be known in the near future.

I would like to wish you all a relaxing, safe and thoroughly enjoyable Christmas and New Year. Enjoy every moment with your family and friends and remember to be sun safe when you're spending time at our beautiful beaches over summer.

As always, I am available anytime to discuss any issues of concern with members of our community. I can be contacted on **0408 023 302** or kerry.vincent@sorell.tas.gov.au.

Mayor Kerry Vincent



Have Your Say - Communications and Engagement

We have started the process of updating our Communication and Engagement Strategy.

The overarching aim for the strategy is to undertake engagement and communication initiatives and activities that are valued by our community and develop trust in Council to deliver better community outcomes.

We aim to increase the opportunities for our community to be involved by communicating and engaging with the right people at the right time, and in the right way.

A community survey will be open in early January for you to help shape our Communication and Engagement Strategy.

Keep an eye on the Sorell Times newspaper, our website and social media channels for all the details so you can have your say.

Improved Beach Access for All

A collaborative community project at Carlton Beach is set to make life a bit easier for those living with mobility issues.

Carlton Park Surf Life Saving Club (CPSLSC) received a donation to purchase 2 beach wheel chairs. A Hippocampe All-Terrain Chair and the Sandpiper All-Terrain Chair were purchased and they are now available to borrow at the Clubrooms.

Bendigo Community Bank Sorell and Districts and the Rotary Club of Sorell were eager to be involved in the project and contributed funding alongside Council to construct a custom beach wheelchair enclosure, designed from the one in use at Kingston Beach Surf Life Saving Club.

The accessibility of the beach wheelchairs will complement the accessible beach accesses recently installed at Carlton and Park Beaches. Having the ability to freely access appropriate equipment and infrastructure to use our beaches will have a hugely positive impact on many people in our community and the wider south east region. It will assist people with mobility issues to be more independent and provide enhanced opportunities for health, wellbeing and recreation.

Waste Management Update

Our Waste Management Strategy was endorsed by Council earlier this year.

Its aim is to grow a sustainable community through proactive waste initiatives including minimising waste to landfill and increasing materials recovery. You can read more about why this Strategy was needed in the Mayors Message in this newsletter.

Current Services

Upcoming changes to our current waste management services that will affect our community are highlighted below:

Kerbside Collections – From 1 July 2024 residents will receive a green waste bin. This bin will collect your garden waste (grass clippings and shrub cuttings) and will be collected **monthly**. Garbage and recycling collections will remain the same until a food and garden organics (FOGO) service is implemented in the coming years.

Green & Hard Waste Collections – The existing green waste and hard waste services will remain in place until July 2024. A new tender for hard and green waste services will be advertised early in 2024. The results of the tender will determine what level of service we provide for green and hard waste collections from July 2024 onwards. As residents in residential areas will have a green waste bin that is collected **monthly**, the number of bulk green waste collections will be reduced. It is likely that the frequency of collection will

be either two, three or four green waste collections per year and one or two hard waste collections per year.

For full details of our Waste Management Services please see our website - www.sorell.tas.gov.au/services/waste-management

Safewaste Bin Latches

We have been conducting a trial of SafeWaste wheelie bin latches with participating residents in the community. SafeWaste latches secure the recycling wheelie bin lid and prevents it from opening if the bin falls or blows over. The latch releases when the bin is emptied, and all you need to do is re-set the latch again on the next kerbside collection day. The primary objective of the SafeWaste latch is to reduce fly-away litter from entering our environment and improve health and safety for our community and waste contractors.

We have surveyed residents participating in the trial to gain their feedback on the performance and usability of the latches. Feedback to date is mostly positive with the majority of residents saying the latch was serving its purpose and they are continuing to use it.

We are currently investigating the possibility of getting additional latches. If you are interested in using a latch, please contact us to add your details to our expressions of interest list and we will keep you updated on the availability of a latch.

Sorell Regional Art Prize and Exhibition

The Sorell Regional Art Prize and Exhibition 2023 was recently held at the Sorell Memorial Hall.

Organised and run by South East Arts with support from Council, this year's theme was "Little Treasurers" with a focus on small paintings 30cm x 30cm and 25cm x 15cm.

The Exhibition was open from Friday 17th November through until Sunday 19th November from 10am - 3pm daily to provide an opportunity for the community to view our local artists' works.

First place was awarded to Roger Pitt for his work "Trouble."

Second place was awarded to David Wayne Salter (pictured) for his work "Spring Arrangement."

The People's Choice was awarded to Denise Hallett for her work "Happy."

Council funded the second prize money of \$2,000 as part of the Annual Contributions and Donations program.



David Salter and his Spring Arrangement artwork



Devenish Drive Stormwater Upgrade Works

Stormwater Drainage Upgrade in Sorell

Significant stormwater drainage upgrade works have just been completed in Sorell.

These works were identified in the Sorell Stormwater Management Plan 2022 as a high priority flood risk mitigation measure and Council were successful in securing a significant grant through the National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program.

Works involved construction of a grass lined swale and a stormwater connection under Devenish Drive. A new walking track was also constructed alongside the swale to ensure the community could continue to access this popular walking spot.

These works make up stage two of a multi-staged stormwater upgrade. The swale links into the large concrete open channel adjacent to the Emergency Services Hub on Cole Street, completed in stage one.

This \$688,000 project was carried out as part of our Capital Works program and is evidence of our commitment to ensuring our stormwater infrastructure has the capacity to meet the needs of our growing community.

Contact Us

Address 47 Cole Street, Sorell
Telephone 6269 0000
Fax 6269 0014
Email sorell.council@sorell.tas.gov.au
Website www.sorell.tas.gov.au

Any feedback about the newsletter is welcomed and can be forwarded to sorell.council@sorell.tas.gov.au



Resignation of Councillor Meg Brown



Councillor Meg Brown has resigned from her position as Councillor due to no longer being eligible to nominate for the office of councillor by virtue of her place of residence now being outside of the Municipality.

The Tasmanian Electoral Commission are currently undertaking a recount process to determine who the replacement Councillor will be. A result is expected shortly.

Thank you for your passion and contribution to your community Meg. We wish you and your family all the best for the future!

Your Councillors

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



Mayor Kerry Vincent

0408 023 302

kerry.vincent@sorell.tas.gov.au



Deputy Mayor Charles Wooley

0447 176 003

charles.wooley@sorell.tas.gov.au



Councillor Shannon Campbell

0447 174 671

shannon.campbell@sorell.tas.gov.au



Councillor Janet Gatehouse

0488 212 359

janet.gatehouse@sorell.tas.gov.au



Councillor Melinda Reed

0408 554 934

melinda.reed@sorell.tas.gov.au



Councillor Marisol Miro

Quesada Le Roux

marisol.miroquesada@sorell.tas.gov.au



Councillor Natham Reynolds

0416 041 720

natham.reynolds@sorell.tas.gov.au



Councillor Carmel Torenus

0402 099 865

carmel.torenus@sorell.tas.gov.au