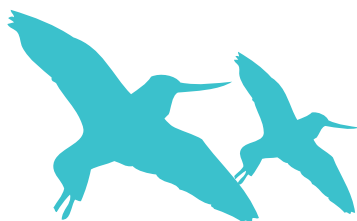


JULY 2024

# Sorell Community News

community coast country

[www.sorell.tas.gov.au](http://www.sorell.tas.gov.au)



## Have your say - communications and engagement

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

The main aim of the strategy is to undertake engagement and communication activities that are valued by our community and help 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 late July/early August 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 information on how you can get involved and have your say.

## Sorell by-election

**Following the resignation of Mayor Kerry Vincent the Tasmanian Electoral Commission ran a by-election for the position of one Councillor and Mayor.**

Councillor Janet Gatehouse was successful at securing the position of Mayor and Michael Larkins of Councillor. Janet and Michael were sworn into their new positions on 24th June and will serve in their roles until the completion of the next ordinary election, due to be held in September/October 2026.

Congratulations Janet and welcome to the table Michael!



## Australia Day Awards

**Our Australia Day Awards for 2024 were presented to recipients in a presentation event at the Sorell Memorial Hall in January.**

Four Awards were presented and 13 new citizens were welcomed in Citizenship Ceremonies. Congratulations to the following recipients of our Awards:

<i>Citizen of the Year</i>	Lenna Boxall
<i>Young Citizen of the Year</i>	Josh O'Neill
<i>Community Group of the Year</i>	Southern Beaches Landcare Coastcare's Tuesday Weeders
<i>Community Event of the Year</i>	A Taste of the South East organised by South East Netball Association

Congratulations to our recipients, as well as all the nominees. It's a privilege and honour to be nominated and recognised for the outstanding work you do in your community!



## Get ready, get green!

Our new kerbside Green Waste wheelie bins have been delivered and the first monthly collection services will commence later this month for residential areas (land use zones General Residential, Low Density, Rural Living Zone A and Village).

Your 2024-2025 Rates Notice will show an increase in our Waste Management Services fee to reflect this new service.



We are committed to actions that help reduce our community's waste footprint. This means the less we send to landfill, the more we help our environment by reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Green Waste bins are our first action to help us achieve this!

We understand that whilst the need for Green Waste bins may vary based on your personal circumstances, all properties within this collection area are charged for the service regardless of usage and frequency. Our existing garbage, recycling, bulk hard and green waste services are all used to different levels by our community, but everyone still pays the same Waste Management Services charge for them.

Your Green Waste bin will later change to a Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) bin. The FOGO service will commence when a local processing facility is constructed during 2025/2026. Under The Tasmanian Draft Waste Action Plan (2019) the Government set the target of reducing the volume of organic waste sent to landfill by 25% by 2025, and 50% by 2030.

Your existing weekly garbage and fortnightly recycling service will remain unchanged until the FOGO facility is completed.

### Bulk green and hard waste collections

We are happy to confirm that kerbside collections remain available for both services. From 1 July 2024 Bulk Green Waste will be collected four times a year and Bulk Hard Waste will be collected two times per year (only available to residents who currently have kerbside pick-up of rubbish). For your Bulk Green and Hard Waste to be collected, it is essential that you book your collections in. Please see our website or Waste Management Services calendar for collection details and requirements.

For full details of our Waste Management Services please see our website [www.sorell.tas.gov.au/services/waste-management](http://www.sorell.tas.gov.au/services/waste-management)

## Thank you Kerry!

Kerry Vincent resigned from his position as Mayor in May 2024 after his successful election win for the Upper House seat of Prosser.



Kerry was first elected to Council in 2009, and elected as Mayor in October 2012. During his fifteen years on Council Kerry was very successful at effectively lobbying and working with State and Federal Governments to secure funding for major infrastructure projects and services for the benefit of the Sorell Municipality and wider south east region.

Thank you for your dedicated service and commitment to our community Kerry. We wish you the very best for your new role and know you will continue to be a wonderful advocate for the south east region.

## EV charging station coming soon!



We are excited to confirm an agreement with Evie Network to install four electric vehicle (EV) charging bays in Neil Davis Place car park (behind LivEat) in Sorell.

The bays will be serviced by 2 x 75Kw fast chargers and with an average charge taking between 30-40 minutes, giving users plenty of time to visit facilities, shops and services within Sorell. Works are expected to commence in July, and may take up to 3 months to complete as the site requires TasNetworks to finalise electrical connectivity.



## BMX track open to ride!

The BMX Track at the South East Sports Complex is now open! The track is available for the community to use during daylight hours.

The track is home to Southern City BMX Club who have a hire agreement with us. At times they will have the track booked for training, events and competitions which means it will be unavailable for the community to use.

Southern City BMX Club hold Come and Try days and offer coaching sessions. Please contact them for more information and details on how to get involved – [southerncitybmx@hotmail.com](mailto:southerncitybmx@hotmail.com)

Please take note of the safety signage at the Track, then hop on your bike and have fun!





# Variety kids sports day comes to Sorell!

Variety the Children's Charity Tasmania hosted the Variety Kids Sports Day in May at the South East Stadium.

Over 80 children attended and enjoyed a range of activities for all abilities, including football, basketball, softball, volleyball, table tennis and cricket from Reclink Tasmania.

Variety Kids Sports Days are a free, fun and inclusive day of trying out different sports for kids who often miss out. Aimed at kids aged 5-18, it gives them an opportunity to have a go in a fun and supportive environment with specialised coaches on hand. The goal is to increase awareness around the opportunities for people living with a physical, sensory and intellectual disabilities, within sport and active recreation. It was a great day out for all who attended with plenty of smiles to be seen.

We supported this wonderful event with \$1500 funding in our Community Grants Program.

Well done Variety Tasmania for hosting this wonderful event! Stay tuned on their Facebook and website for the next Variety Kids Sports Day happening at the South East Stadium.

## Sign up for our E-News!

We've recently started a monthly E-News!

Sign up for monthly updates on what's happening at Council and around the community.

You will receive information on works, projects and activities including:

- > Council Meeting updates
- > Council services and project updates
- > Have Your Say projects
- > Waste Management Services
- > Events
- > Arts and Cultural projects
- > Community information



Scan the QR Code and enter your details to subscribe.

## NRM Update

### Draft Reserve Management Plans

Council is working with North Barker Ecosystems Services to develop Management Plans for five of our reserves in the Southern Beaches area – Dodges Ferry Recreation Reserve, Parnella Reserve, Payeena Reserve, Bally Park Reserve and Samuel Thorne Reserve. The draft management plans are now open for public consultation and feedback.

Council will also be holding a Community Information Session with a presentation by North Barker on Thursday 11th July 2024 at the Carlton Park Surf Life Saving Club from 4pm to 6pm.

Community input is an important part of the development of the management plans and we welcome your feedback and thoughts. To read the Draft Reserve Management Plans and provide your feedback please head to [www.sorell.tas.gov.au/reserve-management-plans/](http://www.sorell.tas.gov.au/reserve-management-plans/) Consultation closes on 17th July 2024.

### Draft Blue Lagoon Management Plan

We are actively working with key stakeholders to understand the potential environmental impact of a proposed outfall on the habitat of the Red Handfish at Blue Lagoon. Consultants have completed their studies and the findings are currently under review by relevant stakeholders. Plans to remove invasive pine trees and undertake revegetation efforts have been postponed, until we receive further information on stormwater management strategies. We want to address environmental and community concerns before proceeding with the draft management plan.

### Draft NRM Strategy

The initial feedback on the summary of Sorell Council's Natural Resource Management (NRM) Strategy has been overwhelmingly positive, particularly regarding its principles and themes. Council is now using this information to draft a comprehensive NRM Strategy, which will be available for public consultation and feedback in the coming months. This strategy aims to outline a sustainable approach to managing natural resources within our community, incorporating community insights and expert recommendations.

### Midway Point Cat Management Project

In partnership with Ten Lives and TassieCat, we have been working on promoting responsible cat ownership and reducing the environmental impact of stray and feral cats in Midway Point. One of the main concerns identified through the surveys and conversations was the cost of desexing and microchipping domestic cats. To address this issue, the project will move into its next phase, offering cheaper desexing and microchipping to those in need, helping to ensure compliance and reduce the number of stray cats. More information will be available about this in the coming months.

## Your Councillors

Contact details for our Councillors can be found on our website at [www.sorell.tas.gov.au/contact](http://www.sorell.tas.gov.au/contact)



**Mayor Janet Gatehouse**  
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**Deputy Mayor Charles Wooley**  
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Any feedback about the newsletter is welcomed and can be forwarded to [sorell.council@sorell.tas.gov.au](mailto:sorell.council@sorell.tas.gov.au)



## Annual Plan and Budget 2024-2025

**Council approved the 2024-2025 Annual Plan and Budget with an average rate rise of 4.5% at a special meeting in June.**

The total rates revenue required each year is determined through our Long Term Financial Plan taking into consideration what it costs us to deliver our services to the community, maintain our infrastructure whilst making provision for new assets. We understand the current cost of living is putting pressure on our rate payers, and have worked diligently to keep our rate increase as low as possible.

We continue to experience strong growth of our community which creates demand for new and upgraded infrastructure, facilities and services. This places strain on our resources and budget, but we continue to look for ways to meet this demand whilst also remaining financially sustainable. We continue to advocate for Government to invest in the south east region and assist us to cater to our community's needs.

### Payment of Rates and Charges

Rates, if paid in full, are due by 11th September 2024. Alternatively, they can be paid by way of four equal instalments as outlined on your Rates Notice. Direct debit options are also available. Rates can be paid online through Council's Website, over the phone, in person at the Council Offices or Australia Post outlets, or via BPAY through your preferred financial institutions online banking system. Full details are included on your Rates Notice.

### Capital Works

Our capital budget for 2024-2025 provides funding for essential services, maintenance of existing assets and new infrastructure growth. This budget commits \$16.9 million for capital works projects (inclusive of carry forwards) and sees funding for the following:

- \$4.2 million for upgrade and renewal of roads
- \$2.1 million for upgrade and renewal of footpaths and cycleways
- \$3.9 million for upgrade and renewal of stormwater infrastructure
- \$0.7 million for improvements and upgrades to our parks and reserves
- \$5.5 million for building works and facilities

Some of the works and projects we will be undertaking this financial year include:

- Continuation of Streetscape works in Sorell
- Bus stop upgrades at the Park and Ride in Sorell
- Upgrade of Stormwater outfalls in the Southern Beaches
- Construction of the South East Jobs Hub
- Public toilets at Madison Lyden Park
- Extension of the Sorell Memorial Hall to provide a green room, history display and storage areas
- Upgrade at Dodges Ferry Skate Park
- Reconstruction of sections of Allambie, White Hill and Delmore Roads and Oak Street
- Development of a Natural Resource Management Strategy
- Review and update of Master Plans for the Community Cultural Precinct and South East Sporting Complex
- Review of Sorell Township Urban Master Plan
- Staged implementation of Social Strategy and Active Transport Strategy priority projects
- Youth Plan/Operating Model for potential Youth Services

A full list of our Capital Works projects can be found on our website.