

13 APRIL 2023



Message from the Mayor

Northern Midlands Council turns 30

The Local Government Advisory Board was established in 1987 and was tasked with conducting a broad inquiry into the modernisation of local government.

Following the inquiry, the resulting *Local Government Act 1993* reduced the number of councils from 46 to 29 and on 2 April 1993, the municipalities of Campbell Town, Evandale, Fingal, Longford, and Ross were amalgamated to form the Northern Midlands Council spanning an area of 5,128km including over 7700 properties and a population of 14,030.

A lot has happened since 1993.

- Council established 7 Local District Committees with Council representation to ensure communities remained connected.
- The community has been represented by 37 different Councillors including 4 different Mayors.
- Council has presided over 30 budgets.
- In 2007-2008 there was consolidation of council-owned water sewerage assets and in 2009 the responsibility for these assets was divided among three regional authorities/providers until 2018 when the State Government assumed responsibility for TasWater from councils.
- In 2015 Land Use Planning and Approvals Amendment (Tasmanian Planning Scheme) Act 2015 passed and the Northern Midlands Council Local Provisions Schedules (LPS) would come into effect on 9 November 2022, forming part of our new planning scheme
- In 2021 the Future of Local Government Review was announced and is ongoing.
- Councils strategic planning has resulted in many updated and new facilities across the municipality including sporting facilities, open spaces for outdoor recreation and stormwater infrastructure.

Project Updates

Northern Midlands Council prides itself on being an enviable place to live, work and play. Our communities are connected, and residents enjoy safe, secure lives in beautiful historical towns and villages.

Swimming pools and recreation grounds across the municipality are an integral component of the sport and recreation infrastructure of the Northern Midlands, enhancing the social viability of our rural communities, promoting connectedness and engagement across multiple generations.

On 31 March Northern Midlands Council was joined by Brian Mitchell federal member for Lyons and Guy Barnett Minister for State Development, Construction and Housing, at the celebration of the redevelopment of Cressy Memorial Swimming Pool.

It was initially envisaged that it would take several years to complete the scope of work required but Council officers were able to achieve this over three years thanks to funding availability, and I would like to commend our Project Manager Trent Atkinson, our Building and Maintenance Supervisor Damien Wilson and his team members, Jake Casey, Brad Willis, and Ashley Osborne for their dedication which has ensured this project was successful.

The **Cressy Memorial Swimming Pool** redevelopment includes:

- New pool complex entrance directly from Main Street.
- Renovated and modernised kiosk/office and storage area.
- New raised, shaded, and sheltered sun deck.
- Gel coating of the two pools and relining of the main pool.
- New shade shelter over the toddler's pool.
- New toddlers playground.

- Upgrades to the concourse and underground pipework surrounding the pool including building the concourse to create a flush entry to the pool rather than a "step up and in".
- Replacing the concrete surrounds with tiles
- Sealing, line marking and landscaping of the complex carpark.
- New fence.

Council maintained a full season of lifeguards and the Cressy War Memorial Swimming Pool Committee have again done a fantastic job throughout the season ensuring users enjoyed this facility to the fullest.



This \$1.577 million dollar project, was made possible with the assistance of our external funding partners and I would like to acknowledge that Northern Midlands Council received:

- \$800,000 from the Australian governments, Local Roads, and Community Infrastructure program.
- \$400,000 from the Australian governments Community Development Grants Program
- \$17,473 from the Australian Governments Stronger Communities Program
- \$100,000 from the 2018 State Election commitment
- \$5,000 from the Cressy Pool Committee
- \$17,473 from the Tasmania Community Fund and
- Northern Midlands Councils contribution was \$217,946.

Cressy Recreation Ground is an integral component of our sport and recreation infrastructure and serves as the town's main sport and recreation precinct. A relatively small ground when compared to Longford, Campbell Town, and Morven Park however, no less important and continuing the celebration of the completion of works in Cressy, Brian

Mitchell paid tribute to the Cressy Recreation Ground volunteers who manage the facility day-to-day.

A year-round all-inclusive facility, the oval is largely used for cricket matches and as a result of this project, in 2023, Bracknell Cricket Club merged with Cressy Cricket Club to create the Western Tiers Cricket Club; and now call the Cressy Recreation Ground, "home".

The redevelopment that has occurred at the Cressy Recreation Ground's included:

- Kitchen/kiosk infrastructure upgrades.
- New kitchen flooring.
- New clubroom furniture.
- New clubroom verandah.
- Electrical and plumbing upgrades.
- New roof.
- Repaint - internal and external.
- Undercover spectator viewing area.

Other works that are continuing include:

- The replacement of approximately 180m of oval boundary fencing;
- Installation of a dump point adjoining the driveway entry; and
- Renovation of the cricket practice nets.

This \$1.227m development was made possible with assistance from multiple funding streams including:

- Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (\$207,571).
- Levelling the Playing Field Grant (\$354,077).
- Department of Communities (2021 State Election Commitment (\$45,000).
- Stronger Communities Program (\$20,000); and
- Cricket Tasmania (\$18,500).
- Northern Midlands Council (\$581,852).



With Northern Tasmania's economy being well positioned to grow and take advantage of the strong demand for our agricultural exports, foods, manufactured products, and tourism experiences, critical to this growth is the development and maintenance of industrial and logistic precincts such as TRANslink that can support trade flows to and from our trading partners in Australia and overseas.

Located in Western Junction, on 5 April the **Gatty Street Detention Basin** was commissioned.

The TRANslink Precinct Renewal Program aspires to achieve sufficient stormwater capacity in the precinct to deal with the run-off from a 1 in 100-year storm event. The construction of the Gatty Street detention basin is a small but critical piece of that infrastructure that was made possible with funding from Local Roads & Community Infrastructure of \$126,270 and a Council co-contribution of \$126,270



Mary Knowles OAM
Mayor