

# This is Kempton



*A newsletter about our town produced by The Green Ponds Progress Association Inc. Jan 2021*

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## **Kempton Township**

Kempton was originally known as 'Green Ponds' or 'Green Water Holes' from the pools of water left by the course of the Green Ponds Rivulet during summer months.

Travelling over Constitution Hill, it was a natural stopping place on the early track between Hobart Town and Launceston.

The first known land grant in the area was to Anthony Fenn Kemp, a former military officer. On his Mount Vernon estate, Kemp bred first class sheep and helped pioneer the Tasmanian wool industry.

By 1823, a number of settlers were farming at Green Ponds. The development of the township soon followed. By 1829 Green Ponds had three inns and a simple log chapel.

In 1834 a convict road station was established on the Green Ponds glebe. The station closed in 1841, but the Superintendent's Cottage (1837) survives as part of the Southern Midlands Council Kempton offices.

In the late 1840s, the township of Green Ponds began to be referred to as Kemp Town (or 'Kempton')

By the time Green Ponds became a municipality in its own right (1862) Kempton boasted a number of coaching inns and shops.

Although Kempton is bypassed by the Midlands Highway, the township still retains its village atmosphere. The beautiful classic Georgian buildings,

charming cottages and historic churches along the Main Street and in the quieter back streets hold a wealth of history, although unfortunately all three churches in the town have been deconsecrated. Many of the houses have plaques which tell the story of Kempton's early days.

## **Green Ponds Progress Assoc.**

The Vision of the Green Ponds Progress Association Inc.(GPPA) is to work together to raise the profile and opportunities within Kempton and the Green Ponds district. GPPA is a membership based group of volunteers who organise and promote community based events and activities.

GPPA make grant submissions for the community's benefit, such as a Southern Midlands community grant for a new PA system at the Recreation ground and The Tasmanian Community Fund grant for computer equipment to set up computer room in Kempton for residents use. (Works in progress)

Through two sub committees, GPPA manages the Kempton Festival and **RAM**, the Kempton Community Bus.

Officers of the Green Ponds Progress Association are:-

President; Gabrielle Watkins  
Vice President; Karine Walker  
Vice President; Wayne Smith  
Secretary; Carolyn Bassett  
Treasurer; Joanne Whelan  
Committee members *continued*

Kempton Festival Sub Committee:-  
2021 Chairperson; Karine Walker  
Committee members plus volunteers

RAM, the Kempton Community Bus  
Manager: Phillip Morrell  
Committee members

The Progress Association grew out of various events that took place on the Recreation Ground which was first nominated as a reserve in 1867. The Green Ponds Municipality leased the land from James Hadden of 'The Grange' and then in 1904 the State Government purchased the land as a permanent reserve.

The Kempton Recreation ground was used frequently right from its earliest days. The Green Ponds Cricket Club was formed in 1859; football was played there from 1885 and at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century The Kempton Football Club was formed.

In 1891 the first Kempton Show began with a Horticultural Show and by the early 1900's was an annual feature with similar entertainment that we have today.

During the first and second world wars, the show was replaced with patriotic fund raising events. After World War Two when many of the men had returned to the district, local sports events were renewed. In 1949 Green Ponds municipality called for tenders to erect a grandstand on the ground. Money was raised by 'grand dances' at the Victoria Hall and the State Government donated £200.

With the help of locals, the grandstand was finished in 1951 and to celebrate the official opening a 'Jubilee Gymkhana' was held in March 1951.

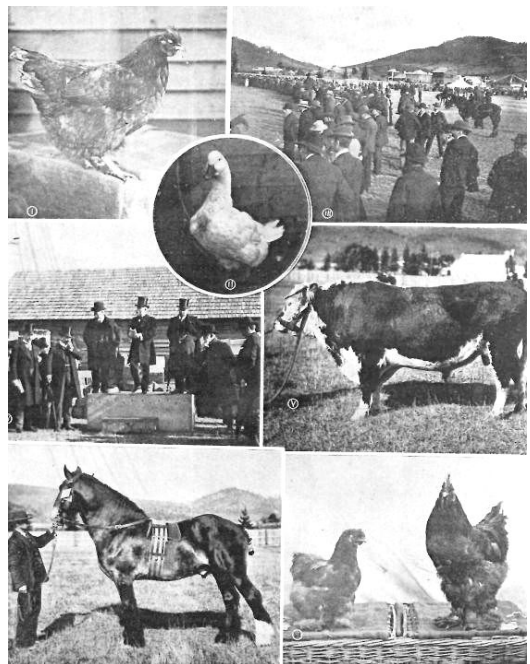
From then until present day the recreation ground is well used, with the Kempton Festival taking place annually on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of February.

The Kempton Festival organisation became incorporated in July 2000 and in October 2002 changed its name to The Green Ponds Progress Association Inc.

Photographs and historical information courtesy Alan Townsend, SM Council.



Green Ponds Cricket Club c 1900



Above, Kempton Annual Show 1904

Below, Sheep racing at Kempton Festival 2017



## Kempton Festival 2020

*contributed by Phil Morrell*

The 2020 Festival by any measure was extraordinarily successful attracting a crowd of some 2500 to 3000 members of the public over the day. Indications from many people spoken to on the day was that this festival was the 'best ever'

The Kempton Festival is run by a sub committee from the Green Ponds Progress Association and has some 18 volunteer members who cross between committees.

Key major sponsors/contributors to the event included Mood Food and the Southern Midlands Council

The Festival brought together many participants and patronage from all over Tasmania and was very well attended by local Kempton residents and their families. The Festival was refreshed this year with new events such as the barbeque competition and the fun run. Add to that the highly successful annual sheep racing competition, ferret racing, rides and stalls plus all the old favourites and great weather made this day one to remember.

There were many contributors to the success of this event. The GPAA committee, the Kempton Festival Sub-committee and community volunteers, including council workers, worked tirelessly over several months and on the day to make this entire festival a stand out event for 2020.

GPAA committee and the Festival sub committee are thrilled that the 2020 Kempton Festival has been selected as the recipient of the Southern Midlands Council Australia Day 'Community Event of the Year' Award.

### **Daily Hire Charges for Kempton Bus**

*\*\$0.60c per km travelled. All petrol costs are paid by customer.*

*\*Charge per day is capped at \$160*

*\*Minimum charge per day is \$50*

*\*Damage claim deductible is \$400*

*\*Pick up and return 7 am to 7 pm from 29 Main Street Kempton*

*\*Drivers to hold current driving license and will be 'inducted' prior to usage.*

## **RAM** The Kempton Community

**Bus.** Number to book; 0418 846 274

The Green Ponds Progress Association purchased an automatic Toyota Commuter bus with 12 seats for the use of the Kempton Primary School and the local community in November 2018. A grant was received from the Tasmanian Community fund and the remaining monies were donated by local groups.

In 2020 Phillip Morrell accepted the role of manager and organised some repair work and servicing. The bus is in good condition and the overall body work and interior condition is exceptional... all ready to go!

The bus became operational on the 18th September 2020. Revised operational procedures and protocols came into use shortly thereafter. Customers are happy with the quality of the hire service.

Information flyers regarding hire of the bus are posted in the Kempton Post Office and circulated by Southern Midlands Council offices.

After a naming competition, held on behalf of the Green Ponds Progress Association at the Kempton Primary School, the Kempton Community Bus was recently named "Ram" at a ceremony held in the grounds of the school.

The Deputy Mayor, Mr Edwin Batt, presented book token prizes to the value of \$150.00 to the staff and students which were donated by the Green Ponds Progress Association. With balloons, soap bubbles and "Ram" badges lots of fun was had by one and all.



## Community BBQ

GPPA President, Gabrielle Watkins is sorry to inform you there will not be a festival in 2021 due to COVID but she invites all locals to a community BBQ on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> February at the oval.

Gabrielle and committee would love a town sale to occur on that day. All locals who wish

to participate and set up a stall site are free to do so but please adhere to social distancing. Sales will only be to the local community.

The annual Kempton Raffle will be drawn and monies raised will go towards the upkeep of Ram, the community bus. Thank you to our generous sponsors.

**GREEN PONDS PROGRESS ASSOCIATION ~ KEMPTON**

# MAJOR RAFFLE Tickets \$2

**DRAWN SATURDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2021**



<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Prize:</b> Original Painting donated by Carolyn Bassett ~ value \$400 	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Prize:</b> Huon Pine Wooden Bowl Hand-crafted and donated by Kevin Rayner ~ value \$350 	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Prize:</b> Gordon River Cruise from Strahan for 2 people ~ value \$350 Donated by RACT 
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Prize:</b> Selection of Products from Old Kempton Distillery ~ value \$350 	<b>6<sup>th</sup> Prize:</b> 3-hour Tasman or Bruny Island Cruise donated by Pennicott Wilderness Journeys ~ value \$290 	<b>7<sup>th</sup> Prize:</b> \$150 Meal voucher and bottle of wine at the Huntington Tavern Kempton 
<b>8<sup>th</sup> Prize:</b> Bottle of Belgrove Rye Whisky Donated by Peter Bignell Belgrove Distillery ~ value \$150 	<b>9<sup>th</sup> Prize:</b> \$100 Meat Voucher donated by Robinson Meats 	<b>10<sup>th</sup> Prize:</b> \$100 Meat Voucher donated by Robinson Meats 
<b>11<sup>th</sup> Prize:</b> Bottle Poltergeist Unfiltered Gin Donated by Shene Distillery ~ value \$90 	<b>12<sup>th</sup> Prize:</b> \$50 voucher donated by St Andrew's Inn Cleveland. 	<b>13<sup>th</sup> Prize:</b> CDs or air-time sponsorship package donated by Community Radio Station 7MIDfm 97.1 ~ value \$100 

**Invitations will be in your post boxes early February**

## Kempton Streetscape Group

Works undertaken in Kempton since May 2017

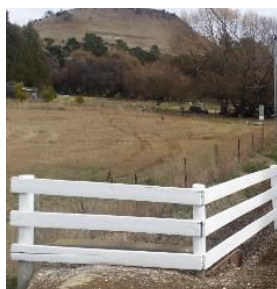


The Kempton Streetscape Group has been working closely with the Southern Midlands Council to determine and work on priority projects.



### Kempton road signage

Kempton road signage was replaced and updated.



### General painting works as requested by community

General painting and maintenance works around the Kempton area (fencing etc.) have been completed.



### Gymkhana paddock (horse drawn shed site)

Silver birch trees have been planted along the road up to the shed in the Gymkhana paddock (horse drawn shed site). Guards have been placed around them to protect them from grazing.



### Footpaths

Priority sections of Kempton footpaths have been upgraded in each financial year and will continue to be upgraded as funding becomes available

### Clock tower / hedge in front of Kempton Council office

Maintenance work on the clock face, mechanism and lighting was undertaken. The stone work on the tower was cleaned and the names on the marble plaque highlighted and fixed. A hedge was planted either side of the clock and at this is point is growing well.





### Recreation ground and other locations – tree planting

Trees planted at the Recreation Ground to provide additional shelter. Feature trees (Oaks) were also planted and tree guards installed at the Ground. Additional trees also planted in other locations around Kempton for example at the stop-over area.



### Recreation ground – entrance moved

A new entrance was created to the Recreation Ground with associated curb and guttering installed. The old entrance was fenced and a memorial seat installed.



### History panel at the recreation ground

Allan Townsend, with assistance from members of the community, prepared the text and photos for a recreation ground history panel. The panel was later made and installed at the ground



### Recreation ground and gymkhana paddock – fencing

The old fence and vegetation was removed and a new fence was installed.



### Playground fencing



A section of new fencing at the playground was installed to match existing fence.

Due to a generous donation from

the Green Ponds Progress Association and RSL Club and a contribution from the Council a new swing has been installed at the Recreation Ground playground.



### **Recreation Ground- Mural on street wall rear of grandstand and club rooms.**

Thanks to the dedication of The Lower Midlands Art Group, together with community members, and local schools, a mural is now part of Kempton's landscape. The silhouette of a coach that was outside Wilmot Arms has been moved and incorporated into the design. Stage 3 will commence shortly, after a set-back last year due to covid restrictions.



### **Victoria Memorial Hall**

A grant was secured to upgrade the entrance and forecourt of the hall. The development application and building approval has been secured and work will begin early this year.

*With thanks to Helen Geard from the SMC and Streetscape committee for providing this update.*

*Many thanks also to Maria Weeding and the streetscape committee for accepting all the suggestions offered and implementing them so efficiently.*

### **Lower Midlands Arts**

Members of the LMA group are from Kempton and surrounding areas. There is no requirement to be an artist, just to have an interest in the arts.

A small number from the group designed and painted the Kempton Mural, see above. They worked with school children from Kempton and Bagdad and community members to decorate the ceramic leaves and birds.

The Artlands exhibition at Dysart House, held in September is organised by this group. It has now become a fixture on southern Tasmanian artist's calendars.

LMA leases paintings that are part of a collection they have amassed called The Lower Midlands Collection. For one year you can lease an art work for just \$50. The works are all related to the southern midlands. They purchase an artwork from Artlands to add to the collection.

*We are on facebook or lease online at [www.greenpondsprogress.com](http://www.greenpondsprogress.com)*

## Brighton Green Ponds RSL Sub Branch Inc.



Brighton Green Ponds RSL Sub Branch was formed in 1935 at Brighton and later moved to Kempton.

The name Green Ponds came from Kempton's former name and district. The sub branch donates to various community groups and charities and assists with Anzac Day ceremonies at Kempton, Bagdad, Campania and Brighton primary schools. They also hold the Anzac services at Kempton (11am) and Bagdad (6.30am)

The RSL is an association for returned service personnel. Younger members are encouraged to join and will be welcomed as inevitably older generations are passing on.

Affiliate membership is available to SES members and also to family members of serving or ex-service members (over 18 years of age) Social membership is also available and welcomed.

The Kempton sub branch is run completely by volunteers. The branch is open every Thursday evening from 6pm to 10pm. Non members are welcome. There is an interesting display of militaria in the rooms going back to World War One on display.

The sub branch manages the Victoria Memorial Hall and since taking on the role has upgraded the floors, window furnishings, wall painting and installed a hatch between the bar and supper room. They have also upgraded kitchen appliances and installed a dishwasher.

The hall is available for hire at reasonable rates with an option of finger-food catering and bar facilities if required.

There is also a good supply of books and DVD's for anyone to take home. Come to the RSL on Thursday after 6pm or Tuesday's from 10am to make your selection.

## Things you may like to know

**St Mary's Church sale;** John Jones is liaising with the Hobart diocese regarding the community purchasing the church and cemetery.

**Horse Drawn Carriages;** The Eaves family who leased the carriages to Kempton has now sold them privately.

### Kempton Services and amenities

Southern Midlands Council—85 Main Street

Visitor Information—By Blue Place,  
88 Main Street

Overnight Camping Stop—90 Main Street.  
Enquiries at the Council Office

Police Station—87 Main Street

Victoria Memorial Hall and RSL—89 Main Street

Booking number for hall; 0458 501 198

Primary School—4 Old Hunting Ground Road

Public Toilets—Old Hunting Ground Road

Post Office and Little Shop of Echoes - 99 Main Street

Huntington Tavern—119 Main Street

Recreation Oval and playground-132 Main Street

Mood Food and Fuel—3001 Midland Highway

\*Kempton Festival —Third Sunday in February  
each year at the Recreation Ground

\*Rodeo in November each year, Melton  
Mowbray.

\*Artlands annual exhibition at Dysart House. -  
Spring

\*Lower Midlands Collection leasing. Online or  
annually at Victoria Memorial Hall—June

\*Junior Football Club at Oval

Web site for GPPA;

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Secretary; [bassettcarolyn7@gmail.com](mailto:bassettcarolyn7@gmail.com)

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This free quarterly newsletter edited by Carolyn Bassett. If you would like to contribute an article or advertise, email [bassettcarolyn7@gmail.com](mailto:bassettcarolyn7@gmail.com)