

**Next Council Meetings:
15 December 2025 in the Council Chambers**

From the General Manager - John Brown

The major piece of news for the month is the release of the reports in relation to the feasibility of an Aquatic Facility in the Break O'Day area. When we set out on the journey to undertake this analysis we didn't think it would be landing at Christmas time this year. As we progressed through the investigation it became apparent that there were some unanswered questions in relation to the social and economic benefits of a facility. We also needed to have a detailed understanding of the potential financial impact. Without this information there were gaps - unanswered questions which needed an answer. This has been a large and comprehensive piece of work and we need to acknowledge the hard work of the Consultants, Council's Aquatic Centre Working Group and Council officers in reaching the stage that we have. It is now up to the community to read the reports and provide your feedback through the survey we have running. Please take your time to do this. A couple of weeks ago Clr Janet Drummond resigned from Council, Clr Drummond has been a passionate and strong advocate for many projects and activities in the Break O'Day area and we wish her well. Her clear thinking and input will be missed around the Council meeting table. Lesa Whittaker was successful through the recount for the vacancy and we welcome Lesa back to the Council table. As this is the last newsletter before the end of the year, On behalf of the BODC team, I would like to wish you all the best for the festive season and hope that you have the opportunity to relax and spend time with those people who are important to you.

Student's Art Brings Christmas Spirit to Break O'Day



St Helens students who were selected in our Christmas Sign Competition with Council staff member - Ruby.



St Marys students who were selected in our Christmas Sign Competition with Councillor Johnstone.

For the fourth year running, Break O'Day Council has partnered with students from St Helens and St Marys District Schools to bring festive cheer to the community through their creativity. This annual competition invites students from Kinder to Grade 6 to design Christmas-themed artwork, with the winning entries turned into colourful signs displayed around the municipality to celebrate the season. This year's competition once again drew an enthusiastic response, with dozens of students from both schools

submitting imaginative and joy-filled designs. Sixteen winning entries were chosen by an independent panel of judges and are now on display under township signs and in prominent community locations across Break O'Day. Congratulations to this year's talented winners:

St Helens District School
Azalea Young, Ella Alsford, Ivy Webb, Eden Higgins, Laquilla Macleod, Stella Dunkley & Lily McGrath, Sophie Lee Radford & Everleigh Skipper, Sophie Curran

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Student's Art Brings Christmas Spirit to Break O'Day

St Marys District School

Jack Innis, Hannah Secombe, Logan Rankin, Zale Leale, Kye Smith, Sadie Paul, Bella Pursell, Kyla Potter-Freckelton

Mayor Mick Tucker praised the students' creativity and the joy their artwork brings to the community.

"It's incredible to see the talent and imagination of our young people. Each design captures the festive spirit in its own unique way, and these signs have become a much-loved feature of our holiday season. They bring smiles to locals and visitors alike as they travel through our towns." The Mayor also extended his thanks to everyone who helps make the project a success.

"We're so grateful to the students for sharing their creativity, to the schools for supporting the project, and to the community for embracing these wonderful displays. It's a simple but special reminder of what makes the festive season in Break O'Day so joyful."

Break O'Day Council looks forward to continuing this creative celebration in 2026 and encourages all budding young artists to take part.

After Christmas, each sign will be returned to its young artist as a keepsake — a lasting reminder of their contribution to this much-loved community tradition.

Council Update – Farewell Janet, Welcome Back Lesa



Break O'Day Council acknowledges the resignation of Councillor Janet Drummond and thanks her for more than a decade of service to our community. Janet has always been a caring and committed representative for the Fingal Valley and wider region, and we appreciate the energy and compassion she brought to her role. We wish her all the very best for the future. Following a recount by the Tasmanian Electoral Commission, Lesa Whittaker has been elected to fill the vacancy. Lesa previously served as a Break



O'Day Councillor from 2018–2022, where she was known for her down-to-earth approach, strong community connections and genuine interest in local issues. Her experience on Council and her understanding of our community mean she can hit the ground running, and we are excited to welcome her back for the remainder of this term. Congratulations to Cllr Whittaker — we look forward to working with her again on Council priorities and local projects.

IN BRIEF

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST WITH BODC

We have opened an Expression of Interest (EOI) process for Outdoor Workforce roles to help us identify candidates for potential vacancies over the next six months. This EOI will allow us to build a pool of interested applicants who may be contacted.

EOI Closes: 5pm, Friday 12 December 2025. For more information or to apply visit www.bodc.tas.gov.au/council/employment-opportunities/

**AUSTRALIA DAY
NOMINATIONS
Now Open!**

More information at www.bodc.tas.gov.au/community/australia-day/

COMMUNITY GRANTS

NOW OPEN

Do you have a great idea to strengthen our community, celebrate local arts and culture, or improve local facilities? Now's your chance!

The Break O'Day Council's Arts & Culture Community Grant Program and Community Funding Program for 2025–2026 are now accepting applications! Applications close: Monday, 23 February 2026

More information at www.bodc.tas.gov.au/community/community-information/

RECALLED SAND PRODUCTS - FREE DISPOSAL UNTIL 31 DECEMBER

To support the coloured sand product recall issued by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC), Council will accept coloured sand products for free disposal at the St Helens, Scamander, St Marys, Fingal and Ansons Bay Waste Transfer Stations.

You can bring recalled sand to any Waste Transfer Station during opening hours. The sand must be double-bagged, taped securely and labelled 'Contains Asbestos – Do Not Open'. Please hand the product to the site attendant.

This free service will be available until 31 December 2025.

"It is Christmas in the heart that puts Christmas in the air."

- W.T Ellis

A Special Message From the Mayor



As we come to the end of another year and prepare for Christmas, I want to sincerely thank everyone across Break O'Day for the way you continue to support one another and this remarkable place we call home. Our community has faced change, challenges and new opportunities throughout the year, yet what always stands out is the strength, resilience and goodwill of our people.

I want to acknowledge our volunteers, community groups, local businesses and Council staff who quietly keep things moving behind the scenes. Your efforts make a real difference and help create the connected, welcoming and vibrant municipality we are all so proud of. This year we continued advocating for local priorities, strengthening services and planning for the future, and none of this is possible without our community's support and engagement. Christmas is a time to slow down, appreciate those around us and reflect on what matters most. I wish you and your families a safe, happy and peaceful festive season. May the year ahead bring good health, opportunity and plenty of reasons to come together as a community. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.

Thinking About Doing Work on Your Property?

Before starting any building or development work, it's important to check what approvals you might need. Some projects—like retaining walls, garden sheds, pergolas, low timber decks, extensions, or even a change of use—may need approval under the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993 (LUPAA) or the Building Act 2016. For general information, visit www.planbuild.tas.gov.au, where you can explore interactive tools to help identify what approvals might be required for your property. There are also fact sheets and helpful guides available on the Consumer, Building and Occupational Services (CBOS) website and the State Planning Office website at www.stateplanning.tas.gov.au.

It's important to read these resources together, as building and planning requirements are separate but often linked. For example, some works may

be considered low risk under the Building Act but still need a planning permit from Council.

Council's role is to make sure that all works are lawful, safe, and consistent with State legislation. These rules are written by the State Government, and our job is to apply and enforce them locally. We don't make the rules—but we are responsible for ensuring they're followed fairly and consistently across our community.

We know the rules can be confusing, and our small team is always happy to help guide you through what's needed before you start work. Checking early can save you time, money, and frustration later on—so if you're unsure, please get in touch with our Development Services team on (03) 6376 7900 or email admin@bodc.tas.gov.au.

We're here to help you get it right the first time.

New Christmas Trees Light Up Break O'Day

Break O'Day Council and the Christmas Festivities Group have added festive cheer with five new Christmas trees—four at the St Helens Foreshore and one at the St Marys Skate Park. Handcrafted by Dan Curran and DC Contracting, the

trees are a true community highlight. Sincere thanks to Dan and family for donating one tree, and the St Helens Hospital Auxiliary for the other three. They look fantastic this Christmas season.

WHAT'S ON

Rockin' Around The Christmas Tree - 14 December 2025 5-7pm

Come along to a night of live music, holiday classics and rockin' vibes at Wombat Walk (rear of St Marys Library) FREE event and BYO picnic. Contact bodregionalarts@gmail.com

St Marys Christmas Party - 24 December 2025 3-6pm

FREE event at the St Marys Community Space (skate park) to celebrate Christmas. There will be prizes, a parade, bbq and a special visit from Santa.

St Helens Christmas Parade - 24 December 2025

The local tradition is back. Come and enjoy the Christmas Parade and look out for Santa on Christmas Eve on the main street of St Helens (Cecilia Street). Visit Break O'Day Christmas Festivities Facebook page for more details.

St Helens Volunteer Fire Service Lolly Run -

24 December 2025

Our TFS volunteers with St Helens Marine Rescue, are getting into the Christmas spirit again this year. Join them after the St Helens Christmas Parade on Christmas Eve on the St Helens foreshore with Santa.

St Marys Pacing Cup - 1 January 2026

Fashion, racing, raffle prizes and more. St Marys Sports Complex with gates open from 11am.

St Helens Athletics Carnival 17 January 2026

St Helens Sports Complex

St Helens Woodchopping Event 24 January 2026

St Helens Foreshore

East Coast Car Club Show - 25 January 2026

Music, food, kids face painting and more. Trophy presentations at 2.30pm. St Helens Foreshore.

Australia Day Award Ceremony - 26 January 2026

Portland Memorial Hall

St Helens 'A Burst of Summer' Flower Show -

31 January 2026

Portland Memorial Hall

St Helens Triathlon - 1 February 2026

St Helens Foreshore

LOCAL MARKETS

St Helens - Every Saturday

Location alternates between the Portland Hall and the Visitor Information Centre Carpark.

St Marys - First Saturday of the month

Held at the St Marys Hall.

Summer Holiday Works Reports

- Georges Bay Foreshore pathway maintenance nearing completion
- Scamander Avenue footpath replacement is 50% completed
- Town maintenance a focus across all towns, particularly mowing
- Officers have been busy assisting with preparations for Christmas events
- Roadside slashing is underway around Fingal, heading across the valley into St Helens
- Sealing contractor preparing for reseal work.

CHRISTMAS CLOSURE NOTICE

Council will close at 12pm on Thursday 11 December for our staff Christmas function.

St Helens Waste Transfer Station: Open 10am–12pm, then closed for the rest of the day

St Marys & Fingal Waste Transfer Stations: Closed all day.

Over Christmas, Council will be closed from 12 noon 24 December and reopen at 9am (with doors opening 9.30am) on Monday 5 January 2025.

Thank you for your understanding, and we wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas season.

WEED MANAGEMENT

St Helens - Spanish heath, foxglove, blackberry, tamarisk

Fingal - Cape dandelion, Spanish heath

St Marys - Spanish heath, mignonette

Steiglitz - Spanish heath, blackberry, broom

Scamander - Cape dandelion, Spanish heath

DOG STATISTICS OCTOBER 2025

Urban Patrols = 3
Beach Patrols = 4
Infringements = 0
Unregistered Dog = 0
Impounded dogs = 1

Weed of the Month: Holly

Did you know that holly is a Declared Weed in Tasmania? We do not want to be spoiling the Christmas cheer, but it is time to think of this tree with shiny red berries and spikey leaves a little differently. Its red berries are attractive to birds too, who spread the seeds long distances in their bellies. Holly can sucker from the roots and is shade tolerant and drought hardy. It has invaded many cool moist forests in Tasmania already, at Weldborough for example. If you have a holly tree give our native bush a Christmas present. Replace it, with a native 'Christmas mint bush' perhaps, and control any that have escaped

and spread nearby. Hand-pull small young plants or look up holly on the 'Declared Weeds index' for information on controlling large holly plants and trees. Take care not to spread seeds. Holly cannot be propagated, traded or distributed.

www.nre.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/weeds/



Aquatic Facility - Review, Watch and Have Your Say

Council has now released all the information gathered through our careful investigation into the proposed aquatic facility — and now it's over to you. This is a big, long-term decision for Break O'Day, and your feedback will help shape what happens next. We're asking everyone in the community to take some time to read the reports, check out the FAQs, look over the financial information and watch the five-minute explainer video. These resources are all available on our website to help you feel informed and confident before completing the survey. A community survey is now open, and we strongly encourage you to take part. Whether you're excited about the idea, unsure, or have concerns — we

want to hear from you. Your feedback, especially on the financial implications, will help Council understand community priorities and expectations. Mayor Tucker said, "This is a once-in-a-generation project. We want people to have clear, accurate information so they can tell us what matters most to them." No decision has been made. Council needstobalancecommunityaspirations with long-term affordability, and your input is a vital part of that conversation. All information — including the full report, summary, financial impacts, and the explainer video — along with the survey link, is available on Council's website and Facebook page. Please take the time to get informed and have your say.

Kinder Break O'Day

We're rolling out our Kinder Break O'Day campaign over the next few weeks — a gentle reminder that small changes in how we speak to each other can make a big difference.

Each tile shows how a simple shift in tone can turn an everyday moment into a kinder one. By choosing our words with care, we can help make Break O'Day a more welcoming and respectful place for everyone.

Let's keep kindness front of mind — one conversation at a time.

Why wasn't my bin collected again? This is ridiculous.

Hi, I think our bin was missed this morning. Could someone please check.

Want to help make Break O'Day kinder?
Start with your words.
We're here for you and we're community too.

Break O'Day
We're All in This Together