

**Next Council Meetings:
18 May 2026 and 15 June 2026 at 10am in the Council Chambers**

From the General Manager - John Brown

I am wondering if you have taken the time yet to comment on the draft Bay of Fires Master Plan which is currently open for comment?

The Bay of Fires area is right on our doorstep yet how often do we stop and take the time to think about the future of this area and the pressures that this is under on a day-to-day basis. The development of a Master Plan is a project by the Parks & Wildlife Service and Break O'Day Council which has been underway for over 12 months. We are reaching the final stages of development for the Master Plan. Over the last month I have visited the area on a number of occasions, including attending the Binalong Bay community engagement session which was looking at the draft Plan. It was interesting listening to the comments and discussion around the room, quite a diverse range of perspectives which make for a healthy debate, yet there could have been more people at the session.

This area is amazing and internationally acclaimed, yet its management and the experience for those visiting or staying in the area could be so much better. Parks and Wildlife Service do the best job that they can with incredibly little resources. The Master Plan might provide a pathway forward to address the challenges, a booking system for camp sites is an example of something which has been mooted. Should there be a small fee charged for each site with the funds used to maintain and improve facilities? Improvements to key areas within the Bay of Fires have been identified, are they logical?

Maybe it is time for you to comment on the draft Master Plan. The comment period closes on 29 May 2026.

Break O'Day Comes Together on ANZAC Day



Photo: Students from St Helens hosted the St Helens Service

On ANZAC Day, the Break O'Day community came together to remember and honour those who have served our country.

Commemorative services were held in Fingal, Mathinna, St Helens and St Marys, giving people across the municipality the opportunity to pause and reflect. In St Helens, more than 700 people attended the dawn and morning services, showing the strong support and respect within the community.

ANZAC Day remains one of the most significant dates on the calendar. It is a time to reflect on the service and sacrifice of past and present servicemen and women, and the values they represent, including courage and resilience.



Photo: Mathinna Dawn Service



Photo: The Community gathers to pay their respects to those who have served.

It was encouraging to see people of all ages take part, helping to ensure the meaning of ANZAC Day continues to be understood by future generations.

Council thanks the local RSL sub-branches, volunteers and community groups who work each year to deliver these important services. Their ongoing commitment ensures ANZAC Day is commemorated with dignity and respect across Break O'Day.

The high level of attendance and respectful atmosphere across the day was a clear sign of the community's support and appreciation and its shared commitment to remembering those who have served.



Photo: Wreaths were laid at the St Marys Cenotaph

Aquatic Facility Survey - Results

Break O'Day Council has now completed Round 2 community engagement for the proposed aquatic and wellbeing facility, with 861 responses received from across the municipality. Importantly, 88% of respondents identified as ratepayers, ensuring strong local representation in the feedback received. Key findings included:

- 55% of respondents indicated support for the facility
- 45% indicated they do not support the proposal
- 75.8% supported progressing to a detailed Business Case
- Many respondents highlighted

health, wellbeing and year-round recreation benefits

- Cost, affordability and long-term financial sustainability remained key concerns
- Many respondents preferred the lower funding scenario, equivalent to around \$178 per year (approximately \$3.40 per week)

Following consideration of the feedback, Council has voted to progress to the next stage — a detailed Business Case and concept design. This work will further investigate costs, funding opportunities and long-term sustainability before any final decision is made.

Recap: April Council Meeting

Council met on Monday 20 April, considering a number of items of interest to the community.

Here are some of the key decisions and updates:

Aquatic Facility – Next Stage Approved

Following community engagement, Council resolved to progress to the next stage of planning for a proposed aquatic and wellbeing facility.

This will involve the development of a detailed Business Case and Concept Design, providing more comprehensive information on costs, design, funding opportunities and long-term sustainability to support any future decision.

Aquatic Petition Received

Council formally received a community petition supporting progression of the aquatic facility to the next stage. The petition will be considered as part of the broader decision-making process.

Other Key Decisions

Council also considered and/or endorsed a number of reports and strategic items, including:

- Scamander Coastal Hazards Adaptation Plan

Work continues to plan for future coastal impacts and identify practical responses to protect the Scamander area over time.

- Natural Resource Management (NRM) Committee Updates

Council received updates from recent NRM Committee meetings and confirmed ongoing representation to support environmental and land management priorities.

- Coastal Planning and Environmental Protections

Council considered matters relating to protecting the scenic and environmental values of the Break O'Day coastline, including stormwater management and development controls.

- Local Government Reform Update
- Council noted outcomes from the State Government review of councillor numbers and allowances.

Received updates on a range of Council services and projects

Stay Informed

Council Meetings are open to the public and are live streamed.

Agendas and minutes are available on Council's website.

IN BRIEF

CAT TRAPPING IN SCAMANDER AND DIANAS BASIN

The Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) will undertake cat trapping programs in the Scamander Conservation Area and Dianas Basin Campground area from 17–23 May 2026. The program aims to reduce feral cat predation on native birds and wildlife and will be carried out in line with strict animal welfare guidelines and standard PWS procedures. Community members and visitors are asked not to interfere with traps or release any animals found in them, for both safety and the success of the program. PWS apologises for any inconvenience caused. For further information, contact the St Helens Field Centre at sthelensparks@parks.tas.gov.au

UPDATE ON SCAMANDER SPORTS & COMMUNITY COMPLEX

A letter has recently been sent to Scamander and Beaumaris residents with an update on the Scamander Sports & Community Complex, including recent improvements, future planning, and governance arrangements for the Council-owned community facility. A copy of the letter is available on Council's website.

The Complex Committee is also seeking a community representative to help shape the future of the facility. Applicants should live in the Scamander or Beaumaris area, be passionate about the Complex, and willing to contribute to the master planning process.

Expressions of Interest close 25 May 2026. For more information or to apply, contact Sally Faulkner on 0417 582 065 or sallyfaulkner2020@gmail.com.

ST COLUMBA FALLS WALK CLOSED 18-25 MAY 2026

PWS advise the St Columba Falls Walking Track and a section of the adjacent car park will be closed whilst the final track surface upgrades are completed. Works will take place between 7am-5pm, 18-25 May, weather dependent. Visitors are asked to comply with signage.

PWS apologises for any inconvenience. For enquiries, contact St Helens Field Centre on 3687 5510.

EFTPOS MACHINES NOW AVAILABLE AT WASTE TRANSFER STATIONS IN:

St Helens, Scamander, St Marys and Fingal

St Marys Exhibition Building Update

Work is underway to bring the St Marys Exhibition Building back into use, with a Community Working Group working with Council to guide the next steps. The Committee brings together Councillor Liz Johnstone (Chair), Council staff and community members, including a Community Assistant Project Manager role. It's been great to see a strong mix of local knowledge, practical experience and shared commitment around the table. Since meeting earlier this year, the group has been working through what's needed to restore the building in line with the needs of the community. A key focus has been understanding and considering the structural work required to make sure the building is

safe and fit for the future. A brief is now being prepared to seek professional engineering advice, which will help confirm the best way forward. Some of the things the Group has been considering are simple improvements, like additional storage, a need identified through community engagement earlier in the project. Once the engineering advice is received, and subject to Council approvals, the project will move into detailed design and planning for construction. This is a great example of Council and community working together to care for an important local asset, and we'll continue to keep you updated as the project progresses.

Swans Shine - 10th Anniversary Heritage Match



Photo courtesy of East Coast Swans: Swans Senior Mens and Reserves team coming together before their wins

Our community spirit was once again on full display at the Pyengana Heritage Football Match, as the East Coast Swans marked the 10th anniversary of this much-loved annual tradition. In a strong showing against Evandale Football Club, the Swans recorded convincing wins in both grades, with the seniors finishing 133 to 11 and the reserves 79 to 39. Beyond the scoreboard, the day was a celebration of local football history, with players proudly wearing heritage jerseys from the Fingal Valley Football Club. Adding to the occasion, AFL umpire Ray Chamberlain officiated the match and for the first time, the event was livestreamed—allowing even

more people to share in this special community event. This year also saw the introduction of the Gary Le Fevre Medal, awarded to the best on ground in the reserves. It is a fitting tribute to a respected member of our community who was deeply involved in volunteering with the club. The medal provides a meaningful way to honour Gary's contribution and ensure his legacy continues to be remembered. The continued growth of the Heritage Match reflects the strong sense of community and pride in our local football history, bringing people together year after year.

WHAT'S ON

The Lighthouse - Every Wednesday

Serving the Break O'Day community, The Lighthouse is a safe place where you can enjoy a free cuppa, hot soup and roll, warm beanies and scarves or a friendly chat. Open every Wednesday, 11am-1pm at the Anglican Hall - 56 Cecilia Street, St Helens.

The Great Loz - Saturday 9 May at 6pm

A staged play reading by Brendan Berecny, St Marys Town Hall. Doors open 5.30pm. Entry by donation.

STEM Expo - 23 May 10am-1pm

Now in its third year, come and experience hands-on interactive STEM activities. Suitable for all ages. St Helens District High School, 9 Circassian St St Helens 10am - 1pm. Entry is FREE. More information at www.stemforgirlstasmania.com

Bay of Fires Winter Arts Festival - Sandstorm Events - 5-7 June from 9am

Sand sculpture workshop and competition. Spots are limited. Register your team early to take part in the workshops and competition. Great cash prizes. Head to this website for more information: bayoffireswinterartsfestival.com.au

The Tasmania Shop Local Art Prize - 6 June at 10am

Come celebrate the artists of Break O'Day at the Panorama Hotel. Major prize is \$2,000 along with People's Choice and Encouragement Award.

Bay of Fires Winter Arts Festival 5-14 June (Long Weekend)

The 2026 Bay of Fires Winter Arts Festival is designed to celebrate the arts in all forms. The festival encompasses just about anything you can imagine at their Art Exhibitions. Enjoy our region and original art creations whether you're art curious or art lovers. For more information visit www.bayoffireswinterartsfestival.com.au/

Winter Lights Solstice Festival - Saturday 20 June

Fun for all ages. Live music, lantern making, parade, fire sculpture and more. Entry by donation, BYO chair, FREE camping. St Marys Recreation Ground. Contact bodregionalsarts@gmail.com

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.

Council Works Reports

- Resheeting Mathinna Plains Road
- Asphalt repairs Ansons Bay Road and around Ansons Bay township
- Turning circle to improve vehicular movement in Newman Street St Marys
- Maintenance grading of Roses Tier Road
- Stormwater work in Aulich's Lane, St Marys
- Township mowing and general maintenance all towns including playgrounds and recreation grounds

BODEC Management Committee - EOI

Break O'Day Employment Connect is calling for expressions of interest from community members to join their voluntary Management Committee. The Committee supports delivery of Regional Jobs Hub services across Break O'Day, Dorset and parts of Glamorgan-Spring Bay, helping improve local employment outcomes. Applicants with relevant skills and governance or board experience are encouraged to apply. **Applications close 5pm, Wednesday 13 May 2026.** Information packs and EOI forms are available by contacting molli.brown@bodc.tas.gov.au.

WEED MANAGEMENT

- **Fingal:** Thistles, Spanish heath, Broadleaf weeds.
- **Pyengana:** Foxglove, Spanish heath.
- **St Helens:** Blackberry, African boxthorn, mirror bush, thistles.
- **Stieglitz:** Thistles, mullein, caper spurge, mirror bush, African daisy.

DOG STATISTICS

MARCH 2026

Urban Patrols = 21

Beach Patrols = 8

Infringements = 0

Unregistered Dog = 0

Impounded Dogs = 0

Weed of the Month - brooms

Both Montpellier and English broom are woody shrubs growing to 2-3m with bright yellow pea flowers and hard long-lived seeds that can be flicked more than 3 metres when the pods pop open. They are both Declared Pests in Tasmania.

Brooms can establish themselves just about anywhere and take over paddocks or out compete native vegetation and change the habitat of fauna.

It is a good time to treat broom. Small plants can be easily hand pulled from the ground, larger isolated plants might need digging, or try cutting them close to the base and quickly painting the stump with herbicide. Larger infestations

can be sprayed and maybe cut back and treated with herbicide when the new growth develops. Biological controls such as sap-sucking psyllids on Montpellier broom are a help.

Make sure you have a sensible long-term control plan and follow-up. For more information please visit www.nre.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/weeds



Stadium Welcomes New Sponsor

Bay of Fires Florist has proudly come on board as a sponsor of the Bendigo Bank Community Stadium, supporting local sport and community activities in Break O'Day. The Stadium plays an important role in the region, hosting basketball, netball, recreation programs and community events. Sponsorship support helps Council continue to grow opportunities for local residents and visitors. With local netball and basketball

seasons starting next week, sponsors play an important role in helping competitions thrive and supporting participation for all ages. Owner Michael Tucker said supporting local sport was an easy decision. "We need to support sporting activities and help give our young upcoming champions opportunities for the future," Mr Tucker said. Council thanks Bay of Fires Florist for their generous support.

Shipping Containers - Know the Rules

What you need to know before installing a shipping container.

Do I need approval?

Yes — in most cases.

Even temporary containers are considered structures and may require:

- Planning approval under the Tasmanian Planning Scheme
- Building approval under the Building Act 2016

What does Council need to consider?

- Zoning of your land
- Impact on neighbours
- Street appearance
- Bushfire-prone areas
- Overlays (heritage, environmental, hazards)

What are the Building requirements for shipping containers?

Containers may require:

- Footings or supports
- Tie-downs or anchoring
- Structural compliance if modified

Temporary use does NOT automatically mean exempt.

Before you install

- Contact Council
- Or speak with a planning consultant or building designer

Why these rules apply

These are State Government laws. Council must enforce them to ensure safety and fairness.

In conclusion...

Always check before installing a shipping container.

"I'm a reflection of the community."
— Tupac Shakur