

Next Council Meetings:
20 May at 10am and 24 June at 10am

From the General Manager John Brown

When a Federal election is called, it provides Council with a great opportunity to lobby local candidates for funding of our identified priorities. Priorities for our community were determined based on projects we know are important to our community and will be of the most benefit to our community.

Recent funding announcements from Senator Martin for the St Marys Flood Mitigation project, the refurbishment of the Old Tasmania Hotel, Fingal as well as his recent announcement for a further \$2.1 million to Council to finish the Georges Bay multi-user track, meant Council had to reconsider our priorities.

It must be noted that Senator Martin's funding was secured as part of the 2018-2019 budget and we have received confirmation in writing that a grant deed for this funding will be forthcoming.

Considering these funding announcements, at the April Council meeting, Councillors determined that our focus for funding will now be focussed on the construction of a shared pathway from Binalong Bay to St Helens as well as funding to develop a business case for the rail trail between Fingal and St Marys.

We look forward to working with the Government of the day on the already funding projects and will continue to lobby and find other opportunities to fund projects that matter to our community.



Some of the SCAMJAM participants celebrating a fun day at the Scamander Skate Park.

SCAMJAM - Showcasing local talent with special guests, Julius and Jett

The youth of the Break O'Day municipality celebrated youth week a few days early this year with their annual BMX, scooter and skate competition SCAMJAM.

Held on Saturday 6 April at the Scamander River skate park, the event is organised and run by the youth of the area in partnership with Break O'Day Council, Tasmanian Government and Youth Week Tasmania 2019. This year was a special year as we saw new sponsor Red Herring also come on board.

Not only did Red Herring donate prizes, including skate lessons for the most promising skate board rider, but also helped get two sponsored scooter riders to the event, Julius Petrohilos and Jett McLoughlin. Julius and Jett not only judged the events but did several awe inspiring demo rides throughout the day.

This year's event saw competitors from around the area showing off their skills in a range of divisions and genres including BMX, scooter and skate board heat.

With a reputation as a family fun day

,there were also plenty of spectators around on the day just enjoying the atmosphere.

"SCAMJAM is a great fun day just to get together, to catch up with everybody and to share some skills," last year's winner, this year's runner up and one of the organisers, Tyron Goodsell said.

The competition was fierce this year with a field of 17 all competing for some amazing prizes on offer which included scooter grips and accessories, stickers and more.

"I am really proud of this event which our youth take-on every year," Mayor Mick Tucker said.

"Not only is it a great experience in terms of skill development and being a part of a community event, it fosters pride and confidence in the youth's achievements."

A big congratulations to this year's winners:

- Scooter 13 and over: 1st - Mathew Whiteley, 2nd - Tyron Goodsell
- Scooter 12 and under: 1st - Miles Chisholm, 2nd - Callum Thomas
- 13 and over BMX: 1st Sam Barnard
- Open Skate Board: 1st Alex Mead

\$2.1 Million announced for Georges Bay track

On April 16 Senator Steve Martin visited St Helens to make a funding announcement. Senator Martin has secured \$2.1 million for Break O'Day Council to complete the Georges Bay Multi-user track. This funding will mean pedestrians and cyclists will be able to ride/walk all the way from Lions Park on the corner of St Helens Point Road and the Tasman Hwy to St Helens.

Plans for the track include extending the track all the way around Georges Bay and include a bridge adjacent to the Golden Fleece bridge.

Mayor Tucker welcomed the funding saying that having a Federal 'pollie' like Steve Martin who was prepared to come to town, listen to locals and

take the funding fight to Canberra was exactly what regional councils needed. "We are very grateful for this funding from Senator Steve Martin and thank him for prioritising the needs of our regional community," Mayor Tucker said.

"We have been working hard on getting funding for this project for a number of years and I am very proud to see it come to fruition.

"This means that we will now have a complete and safe off-road link for pedestrians and cyclists from the Lions Park all the way to St Helens around beautiful Georges Bay.

"This will be great for locals and visitors alike as they get outside and get active in our beautiful municipality."



Taswater Project Manager Bashar Abuusba and Mayor Mick Tucker "cutting the ribbon" on the new pump station

Taswater Foreshore completed

The new TasWater St Helens Esplanade Sewage Pump Station is now complete and fully operational, despite recent delays in the construction. The newly commissioned pump station near the Esplanade boat ramp provides four times the capacity of the previous pump station and has also come with a newly sealed car parking area.

A substantial amount of work has been undertaken in St Helens in recent years by both TasWater and council to help resolve the issue of wastewater overflowing from sewerage infrastructure after rain events into Georges Bay. Council has completed works to prevent stormwater infiltration into the sewer

system and TasWater has completed construction of the Jason Street Sewage Pump Station upgrade, a new rising sewer main along Jason Street and the Esplanade to the St Helens Sewage Treatment Plant and now the newly completed Esplanade Pump Station. This is a great outcome for shellfish growers in the area who can be considerably impacted by overflow events. There have been no known overflow events from TasWater infrastructure in at least two years. All these projects have improved the available emergency capacity in the sewer system as well as building capacity in the system to cater for future growth in the region.

IN BRIEF

Have you seen the new playground at Falmouth yet?

We have just replaced the play equipment at Falmouth and there are some great new items for kids to enjoy including a pirate ship.



Works Depot Solar installation

The Council's Works Depot has had a 21kW solar system installed. This fit-out is part of Council's commitment to lowering our carbon foot print as well as finding operational savings so more money can go back to community programs.

The system is expected to return approximately \$5800 per annum in savings with a payback period of less than four years.

The Portland Hall was fitted out last financial year with a 26kW system.

Waste to landfill reduced

Since we introduced kerbside recycling and refocused waste collection at the Waste Transfer Stations, we have been able to substantially reduce the amount of landfill we send to Copping.

Looking at year on year figures, in 2016 – 2017 we sent 3000 tonnes to landfill, in 2017-2018 we sent 2400 tonnes. Looking at this year's projections, we should send approximately 2200 tonnes to landfill. This means 800 tonnes of waste has been diverted from landfill.

We would like to congratulate our community on embracing the three R's REDUCE, REUSE and RECYCLE.

Welcome back Councillor Margie Osborne



On 1 April it was announced that Break O'Day Council stalwart and beloved

community member, Margie Osborne would be replacing John Tucker as Councillor for Break O'Day Council.

Margie previously served 20 years as a Councillor representing our municipality and has immersed herself in her community.

On behalf of Council and community we would like to officially welcome Margie back to Council and look forward to her contribution over the next four years.

St Helens Hospital Open Day a great success

The community came out in the hundreds to have a sneak peek at the new St Helens District Hospital on April 3.

The Tasmanian Health Service decided to hold an open day with prompting from Council to give residents a chance to see the hospital under healthy circumstances.

Feedback that we have received from the community has been nothing but

positive and it is clear that there is a real sense of pride in the community around the new facility.

Minister for Health, Michael Fergusson as well as Deputy Mayor John McGiveron joined the community in checking out the new facility with both stating how impressed they were with the development.

The St Helens District Hospital is scheduled to open officially in May.

**WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT COUNCIL'S PROJECTS?
CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE, WWW.BODC.TAS.GOV.AU**

Take care with what you feed to your pigs

Restaurant, food outlet and household food waste may be seen as an economical way to feed your livestock, but Biosecurity Tasmania warns that feeding waste food to pigs can pose a significant threat to our livestock industries, our economy - and our way of life.

Foods or food scraps/food waste that contain or have come into contact with meat or meat products are known as 'prohibited pig feed' or 'swill'.

Some pig owners may not be aware that feeding meat and meat products to pigs is illegal in Tasmania (and across Australia) because it could introduce devastating diseases to pigs and other livestock. This applies to all types of pigs - including pet pigs.

Foods that contain meat or meat products, or that have had contact with meat or meat products, may contain viruses that can cause severe disease in pigs, as well as providing an entry point to infect other livestock. Many viruses can survive for extended

periods in meat and meat products. Many exotic animal disease viruses are highly resistant to chilling, freezing and curing. Boiling swill may not destroy all disease organisms.

Australia is fortunate to be free of many diseases that could affect our livestock industries and trade. Feeding prohibited feed to pigs is the most likely way exotic diseases could be introduced into Australia's livestock.

If you are in doubt as to what is actually mixed up in the food scraps - err on the side of caution and don't feed it out to your pigs. Your vigilance could avert a potentially disastrous outcome for our State, and the rest of Australia. Remember, Tasmania's biosecurity is everyone's responsibility. For more information visit, www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au.

**Want to receive your
newsletter via email?**

**Please email
jayne.richardson@bodc.tas.gov.au**

What's On

Pyengana Easter Festival

20 and 21 April

Held at the Pyengana Recreation Ground, this annual event features woodchopping, sheep dog trails, show and shine, working blacksmith, BBQ and more. Camping available. Contact Vaughn Oldham 6373 6170.

ANZAC Day Services

25 April

Local ANZAC Day services will be held in St Helens, St Marys, Fingal and Mathinna. St Helens, St Marys and Fingal will all host a Dawn Service at 6am. St Helens, St Marys and Mathinna will host a service at 11am. The St Helens RSL will also have a Gunfire Breakfast at 6:45am.

Lunch and Munch

26 April

Held at Tidal Waters Resort from 12 noon to 2pm. This event is organised by Georges Bay Music with this month's special guests, Chris and Viv Boys. Members \$8, non-members \$10.

Chaplaincy Fun Run

27 April

This event starts at 9:30am at the Bendigo Community Stadium. It is a family event with 10km, 5km and 2km events. For more information like the St Helens Local Chaplaincy Committee facebook page.

St Helens Health Forum

10 May

Held at the Portland Hall, St Helens, from 5:30 - 6:30pm this forum has been organised by Labor MPs Rebecca White and Jen Butler. RSVP 6212 2225.

St Marys Markets

First Saturday of every month

Held at the St Marys Hall from 9am - 1pm and featuring local arts and crafts and much more. Stall inquiries can be directed to Megan on 0418 881 315.

Old Codgers Meeting

Every Friday

St Helens Books and Coffee are offering men over 50 the chance to call in, enjoy a hot cuppa. Held from 2-4pm. Cost: \$1 per cuppa.

St Helens Markets

Every Saturday

Held every Saturday in the St Helens town centre from 8am - 1pm. New stall holders welcome, phone 0408 927 154.

Capital Works Projects - March

- Fingal Streetscape – progressing well. The area will be cleaned up for Easter with works continuing after the Easter break
- St Helens Point Road – Shoulder works are underway including an extension of the curb and channel.
- Gardens Rd – Civil works almost completed. These works will resume after Easter which means sections will remain gravel over the break. There is signage in place and we will be monitoring closely. We appreciate your patience and cooperation.
- Ansons Bay Rd – Grading has been completed in time for the Easter break.
- Mathinna Plains Rd – Grading will start after the Easter break.
- Anzac Day services – Crews will be busy preparing cenotaphs for Anzac day services.



Grading of Ansons Bay Rd has been completed for Easter



Works crews will be busy getting cenotaphs and memorial parks in order for Anzac Day

Weed of the month- Banana Passion Fruit



Banana passion fruit is an environmental weed in Tasmania and is a cause for concern due to its invasiveness.

Banana passion fruit is a prolific grower and can smother and collapse shrubs and trees. Seed is spread by birds and other animals allowing it to spread quickly.

Now is a great time to treat this weed. Small plants can be dug out, while larger plants can be mechanically removed or the stem cut at the base and applied with herbicide.



Vice-president Mr Daniel Chan, Mrs M Chung, Curator St Helens History Room Kym Matthews, President CCAT, Mr Brian Chung, Mr Peter Chung OAM, Mrs A Chung, Vice-president Mrs I Chan.

Pictured at the St Helens History Room recently are members from the Chinese Community Association of Tasmania. Members loved our displays and the movie telling of the Chinese history of NE Tasmania. They are busily planning their 50 year celebration of their association so we are looking forward to welcoming them back in July as part of their activities.

The St Helens History Room is currently looking for volunteers. We have a very energetic and passionate team of volunteers but we need to maintain our collections and that requires person power! If you have a few hours to spare a week, why not call into the centre and see what we do at the St Helens History Room.

Rates Reminder

The fourth and final rates installment is due on 7 May 2019. Please note that BPAY and postal payments can take a few more days to reach our account.

Boomerang Bags Launch

Locals helping to make Break O'Day Plastic Bag Free

Join us at the St Helens Market on Saturday 27th April between 10am and 1pm

Come along meet the team and take a Bag

Our bags are made by locals using recycled fabric.

Our own Break O'Day Community group is one of more than 800 Boomerang Bag communities up and running around the world.

Ours was the first to list in Tasmania.



Funded by the Crown through the Department of Communities Tasmania