

**Next Council Meetings:
18 May and 22 June at 10am**

From General Manager - John Brown

It is so pleasing to see the vast majority in our community doing the right thing and playing their part in reducing the risk of COVID-19 transmission. Just like many within our community, I have wondered about some of the restrictions which have been put in place by the State Government and I have taken the opportunity to question the logic through official channels. At the end of the day I have accepted that whilst it might not seem logical, we just need to accept it for the moment and look forward to restrictions being eased. It does make us appreciate things we take for granted more greatly when it is denied to us. On the negative side it has been annoying to see some people ignoring the 'stay at home' message and deciding to visit our area over Easter and other times. I know Tasmania Police have been doing what they can to look after our community by following up on the reports they receive through the Coronavirus website. Thank you to our local Police for doing what they can.

The Council office staff have shifted quickly to working remotely in response to the situation. Fortunately we already had remote access in place for a number of employees due to the nature of their roles which we quickly expanded to everyone. To support this we adapted the way we have been working and the flow of information. Staff still spend time in the office on a rotational basis. The impact of working remotely can sneak up on people as you can start to feel disconnected and isolated from what is an important part of your life, the workplace. Monitoring the mental health and well-being of our employees and supporting them has been really important. Keeping in touch is also now happening through our video conferencing platform through virtual meetings, whilst we have used this a bit before it is now the new 'norm' and this week we had our first 'virtual' Council meeting which went really well.

It will be interesting to see what our lives look like in another month. Be positive, take care and look after yourselves and those around you.

Wrinklers Toilet Block Replacement

This week letters were sent out to Scamander residents to seek feedback on a fresh new design and upgrade to the current Wrinkler's toilet block and carpark.

The design came from a Monash University 3rd Year architectural student and was commissioned by Council as part of the Great Eastern Drive Roadside Stop Design Study.

Council looked at six sites for the new design and with its scenic location, easy access and the fact that the toilet block was due to be replaced, Wrinklers seemed the perfect location. The design for this area is in 2 parts – the toilet facility located within the existing carpark and a boardwalk to the end of the existing car park where people can enjoy the vista of the area

and take those memorable shots.

The new design will not only see the construction of the new toilet block but will also include;

- Address the issue of safety for cars entering and exiting the site safely
- New turning signage from the highway entry
- The addition of a viewing structure to enhance the pull over experience

If you would like to offer feedback on the design, please email to admin@bodc.tas.gov.au and mark it "Wrinklers Project"; or you can mail or drop your feedback into the main office located at 32-34 Georges Bay Esplanade, St Helens, 7216. If dropping off feedback, please use the letter box outside the office.



Pictured above: Artist's impression of the proposed works.

COVID-19 Community Care and Recovery Package - What's in it for you....

At the 20 April Council meeting, Break O'Day Councillors unanimously approved two motions aimed at helping the community deal with the effects of COVID-19. These two motions covered a Rates Hardship Assistance Policy and a Community Care and Recovery Package.

Based on advice from the Local Government Association Tasmania as well as taking into account the activities of other Councils, Break O'Day Council's Rates Hardship Assistance Policy will offer three options for Rate remission;

Continued over...

COVID-19 Community Care and Recovery Package - What's in it for you... continued

1. Allowing time for rates to be paid with no penalties, interest or recovery action
2. Writing off of penalty or interest charges due to late payments
3. In extreme hardship, writing off rates charged to a property

Ratepayers wanting to apply for the Rates Hardship Assistance will have to apply in writing and provide evidence of hardship. (More information can be found on the Break O'Day Council website on the COVID-19 web page).

Applications and complete forms can be hand delivered or posted to 32-34 Georges Bay Esplanade, St Helens 7216 or emailed to admin@bodc.tas.gov.au. Council also agreed to waive penalties and interest on the fourth instalment of the 2019-2020 rates instalment due on 5 May.

Further provision for Rate remission for commercial businesses has also been considered through the Community Care and Recovery package – COVID-19. 100% remittance for commercial rates will be provided to the following:

- Accommodation
- Hospitality (Restaurants, Cafes, Coffee Shops)
- Retail (noting that some are of a mixed nature which Council will assess on a case-by-case basis) excluding a number of business types (See more information on the website.)

This will apply from 1 April – 30 September 2020.

Other activities under the package include:

1. Deliver Annual Plan and Budget for 2020-2021 based on 0% rate

increase

2. Waive fees for the annual registration of Food Premises for a period of 6 months
3. Waive lease fees for commercial premises leased by Council for a 6month period from 1 April
4. Reduce the fee for new Planning and Building Applications (excluding Discretionary Application Advertising Fee and Building Surveying Fees) by 50% from 1 May to 1 November 2020
5. Refocus Council resources where possible to assist with supporting the community and community organisations through this period.
6. Actively work with event organisers to reschedule events and resolve event sponsorship funding arrangements for cancelled events as well as to develop new events.
7. Develop infrastructure projects to a shovel ready stage to provide employment and support economic activity.

Break O'Day Council committed to reviewing the Community Care and Recovery Package at each Council meeting to ensure all options for community recovery now and into the future are considered and reviewed for effectiveness.

Aside from the financial, Council is also considering other ways that it can assist its community, particularly in the space of Mental Health and Wellbeing. If you are struggling to cope at the moment contact Lifeline on 131114.

St Helens History Room Update

The St Helens History Room was closed to the public on 25 March but we are still working and arranging displays for when we can have you all back to visit again.

Please take a moment to view the foyer cabinet display at the centre when paying bills at Service Tasmania where a tribute to Anzac Day has been installed.

Once we reopen, we will have a great

exhibition to share, 'On Yer Bike!' This display was planned for the inaugural MTB race 'Dragon Trail' for late March 2020 and you will find some beautiful historic images of locals and their bikes plus a pictorial history on the Cycling Club of St Helens.

Visit our website for further information www.sthelenshistoryroom.com Stay home and stay well everyone..... see you on the other side!

IN BRIEF

Old Tas Hotel Project

The Old Tasmanian Hotel restoration project is well underway and we are excited to be almost ready to move to the next phase of works.

Located at 20 Talbot Street, Fingal, this historically significant landmark provides essential services to the Valley community including housing the Fingal Valley Neighbourhood House.

The next phase of works will include reroofing of the building and repainting of the front façade. While this work is underway, pedestrians using the footpath at the front of the building may be redirected and the speed limit along Talbot Street will be reduced so please look out for any signage.

We appreciate your cooperation and understanding.

TFGA Landcare Action Grants – applications now due 30th April

Round 2 of the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association's Landcare Action Grants has had its deadline for applications extended to the end of April. Farmers, community groups and others can apply for up to \$10,000 for practical activities that improve landscape and riverine health, stability and resilience, reduce erosion and sedimentation, enhance management of natural and productive land and waterways and the sustainability of agriculture. For the guidelines, application form and further information see the TFGA webpage www.tfga.com.au/environment/landcare or call them (6332 1800). And you can contact Council's NRM Facilitator, Polly Buchhorn, for local support.

**For information on
COVID-19 visit**

www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au



Thank you message from the Mayor

There is no doubting that the last month has been a really trying time and we have all had to make adjustments and sacrifices that we probably aren't real happy about, but I wanted to take this opportunity to say "You're doing well, hang in there and thanks for playing your part!"

Here on the coast we enjoy a pretty special environment that most of us moved here to enjoy so it is no wonder we all felt a bit robbed when PWS had to close our beaches. But I think the majority of our community has understood the reasons for this and have done the right thing by staying away, and for that we thank you.

I also want to congratulate our local businesses, many of whom have, or are looking at, ways they can adapt their business during the pandemic. It has also been great to see our local community continuing to support our local businesses – this is really important. Without our businesses continuing to tick over and provide services and products, we simply would not be the thriving community that we are.

So thank you everyone for playing your part, know that Council is here to help where we can and please, hang in there everyone, this won't last forever.

If you are struggling to cope and need some extra support, give Lifeline a call on 131114.

FIVE WAYS TO IMPROVE YOUR WELLBEING DURING THE PANDEMIC

NOTICE THE POSITIVES

This is a tough time for everyone. Try to refocus on things that are going well or little moments that matter today. Stay informed, but do not focus on the news. Try instead to search for good news stories that inspire kindness and joy.

REMEMBER TO BREATHE

Stress and anxiety are both normal during adversity. Take a moment to slow down, walk outside and just take a big deep breath. You will oxygenate your blood stream, refuel your brain and as a result, feel a little more calm, focused and positive.

STAY CONNECTED

Maintain physical distancing but stay socially connected. Talk, listen and regularly check in on family and neighbours. Be sure to contact at least one person daily and make time to reconnect with old friends.

ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR STRENGTHS

You are doing great in these unprecedented times and uncertainty is perhaps the hardest obstacle. Try noticing what you've done well this week, how resilient you've been and how you've inspired or supported others.

LOOK AFTER YOURSELF

Your health is now more important than ever. Work towards eating healthy meals, sleeping well and getting as much exercise as possible. Let's face it, exercise is the perfect excuse to get outside and is just as critical for your mind as your body.



Jodie Cooper
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Capital Works Projects - April/May

- Resheeting has started on parts of Ansons Bay Rd
- Lottah Rd works underway
- Fingal road works completed- line marking and some guardrail installation on Brown Street will be complete by the first week in May weather permitting
- Green waste mulching will be undertaken over the next couple of weeks at St Helens and Scamander WTS
- Two timber bridges re-decked one in Mangana on Argyle St and one in St Marys on Richardsons Rd
- Works Crews were kept busy addressing damage caused by the rain event particularly in the St Marys / Fingal / Mangana area two weeks ago.



Pictured above, works on Lottah Rd.
Pictured below, resheeting on Ansons Bay Road.



Weed of the month- Pampas



Pampas grass is a Declared weed that spreads aggressively by tiny windblown seeds that grow into very large tussocks. Relatively small numbers persist in parts of Break O'Day despite efforts over the years to eradicate it.

The autumn rains have produced new growth and flower heads that make pampas easy to spot and control now. 'Deadhead' and bag the flowers first, very carefully and securely. The dense roots can be dug and pulled out if not too large, or you have time on your hands and need the exercise! Treatment with herbicide is effective for large plants.

For more information on identification, treatment and control look up pampas grasses on the 'declared-weeds-index' at dpipwe.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/weeds.

A new way to celebrate Anzac Day

RSL Tasmania is encouraging all Tasmanians to commemorate ANZAC Day on the 25 April 2020 in a different way.

RSL State President, Robert Dick said "Although we are devastated by the need to cancel traditional ANZAC Day commemorations this year, we've been encouraged by the alternatives many of our community have shared. "RSL Tasmania has adopted the Light up the Dawn campaign, and we ask that at 6am on ANZAC Day, let's gather – separate but united – at the end of our driveways or on our balconies and observe a minute's silence as the sun rises.

"We are asking Tasmanians to follow Australian Government instructions not to gather in groups, and instead commemorate the day in different ways," Mr. Dick said.

This year, at 5.30am Australian War Memorial Commemorative Service will be on ABC TV, ABC Radio, Facebook and iView

For more information on broadcast and streaming services and start times, please visit www.awm.gov.au

6.00am Light up the Dawn
Let's be united in the ANZAC spirit.

Join Australians around the world by honouring our ANZACS by standing at your drive way at 6am to observe a minute's silence on ANZAC Day.

