

**Next Council Meetings:**  
**17 May and 28 June at 10am at the Council Chambers, St Helens**

## From General Manager - John Brown

Safety in the workplace is at the core of the way we do things at work these days. It is not just about the physical safety which we all understand, but is also about emotional safety as well. This aspect of workplace safety is not always appreciated though there is an increased focus on this across all workplaces. We may have noticed advertisements running through media relating to the 'No one deserves a serve' campaign which is focussed on addressing the increasing amount of physical and verbal abuse that customers are directing at retail and fast food staff. A key point in the information is that over 85% of workers are being abused while they work – that figure is mind blowing. But when you stop and think about it, it is probably right. As a Council we have many workers in the front line and sadly all too often I hear about the abuse they cop from people when they are just doing their job. Just like you they are also members of this community and are doing what they can to make it a place that we are proud to live in.

Just a little bit on physical safety. Occasionally when we have road works underway we will put out our traffic counters in the road works which might seem an odd thing to do.... But these are smart meters, they give us all sorts of information relating to the traffic movement. Recently we placed the counter on St Helens Point Road for four days because of complaints from the contractors about vehicle speeds to see what was happening. During this time nearly 6,600 vehicles went through the 40km/h limit, 4,525 (68%) were speeding which is a staggering number. Just imagine the revenue boost for Tasmania Police if everyone was caught. What was the top speed...93.2 km/h!!!! I wonder how they would feel about their own personal safety if this was their workplace.



Senator Claire Chandler and Mayor Mick Tucker officially open the Old Tasmanian Hotel

## Old Tasmanian Hotel - A new lease on life

On 15 April, the Old Tasmanian Hotel in Fingal was officially opened by Senator Claire Chandler and Mayor Mick Tucker. The building will now be a crucial piece of infrastructure to provide services to the Valley community.

The Old Tasmanian Hotel restoration project has been several years in the making and has seen the historically significant building lovingly restored in keeping with the historic value of the building.

Building Services Coordinator and Project Manager, Jake Ihnen, said that the restoration pretty much touched every square inch of the building.

The community building is now fitted out with offices for Neighbourhood House as well as service providers, conferencing facilities, family room with bathroom and kitchen facilities for emergency accommodation as well as a lift to ensure disability access. There is also a designated history room that features historic information on the building as well as the Fingal community.

Council sought Federal funding support

through the Australian Government's Community Development Grants Program, \$500,000 - as well as the Australian Government's Drought Community Program, \$210,000 with \$134,934 provided by Council and \$70,000 from the Fingal Valley Neighbourhood House to complete the project.

Mayor of Break O'Day Mick Tucker said the upgraded facility was already having a positive effect on the Fingal community.

"The Break O'Day Council is proud to have supported this important community project, which will continue to deliver important services in Fingal and surrounding areas for many years to come," Mayor Mick Tucker said.

"The Old Tasmanian Hotel in Fingal has a rich history and it seems fitting that this building is now a community space that the whole community can enjoy once again."

All are welcome to stop by the Hotel to see this amazing restoration and check out the history of the area.

## TasWater's smart meter renewal works

TasWater is making it easier and safer for customers in Break O'Day to access water meters.

Meter renewal works are being undertaken in the municipality for all TasWater customers as part of an ongoing state-wide program.

TasWater Program Manager Robert Cameron said the new smart meters will benefit both staff and customers.

"The new water meters are able to be read remotely, reducing the time and resources required to manually read the older water meters," he said.

"This new technology means customers can also easily see their total water usage as well as their current usage."

"In addition, we are replacing service valves and installing suitable meter pits to better protect each water meter."

These are being fitted at a safe, easily accessible height within the meter pit

which only requires a screwdriver or a similar item to open the lid.

"This is so customers don't put their fingers in and potentially get bitten by a spider and can more easily access their water shut-off valve if required or in the event of an emergency."

The meters can also detect very low flow rates which can help with leak detection on properties if necessary.

The new meters meet modern measurement regulations and the latest Australian standards that ensure the readings taken are accurate.

Across Tasmania there are more than 200,000 identified water connections, and in the Break O'Day Council region alone there are 3,390 connections.

The renewal works will be completed at homes and businesses over the coming weeks.

## European wasps are about, track them down

The sting of the European wasp is very painful and life-threatening if they attack en-masse. They can make school lunchtimes, picnics and backyard barbeques unpleasant and dangerous. They impact horticultural producers, including vineyards, food handling and processing businesses, tourism and outdoor workers. They are a dangerous pest and a big nuisance in Australia where numbers can build up and now is your chance, before winter, to track them down and treat them.

At this time of year European wasp nests are reaching a peak, feeding frantically to produce fertile queens which will fly out to find places to

hibernate to start new nests next spring. They can be aggressive at this time of year.

If you see a lot of European wasps about try and locate their nest taking great care to stay safe. Nests can then be treated with a little insecticidal powder placed at all the entry holes. Where nests cannot be located or reached, a meat based bait containing Fipronil is available through licensed Pest Control Operators.

For more information on European wasps see Biosecurity Tasmania's "European and English Wasps" webpage at [dpipwe.tas.gov.au/](http://dpipwe.tas.gov.au/)

Pictured below: European Wasp with a bait



## IN BRIEF

### COVID Clinic UPDATE

The St Helens Respiratory Clinic is now open offering Covid-19 vaccinations and testing for eligible patients.

They are currently vaccinating Phase 1b eligible patients including Healthcare Workers, Patients over 70 years of age, patients over 55 years of age who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Patients with a chronic health condition.

As of 3 May, vaccinations for 2A will start to be rolled out – this includes patients over the age of 50, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders patients aged over 18.

Please check your eligibility at [www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au](http://www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au)

COVID-19 Vaccinations are offered Monday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9am by appointment only.

COVID-19 Testing is offered Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons from 1pm by appointment only.

If you require an appointment for a vaccination please call 03 6351 0007. If you require an appointment for any respiratory conditions including a Covid-19 test please book an appointment and complete the registration process at [hotdoc.com.au](http://hotdoc.com.au) and searching St Helens Respiratory Clinic or call 03 6351 0007.

We are currently experiencing a high demand of phone calls, your patience and understanding is appreciated.

### Tasman Hwy Works: Update from Gradco

Works are now well underway from Flagstaff Road towards St Helens with the formation of the new piece of road and road widening in other sections.

We will shortly be commencing works from Flagstaff Road to Diana's Basin. Initially this will start with surveyors working in this area from the 3rd of May, 2021 with tree felling in the area likely to start around the 6th of May, 2021.

For more information on State Road works - [www.transport.tas.gov.au](http://www.transport.tas.gov.au)



## 'German Settlers In The Fingal Valley'

Friends of the St Helens History Room would like to invite you to a presentation on "German Settlers In The Fingal Valley" by Michael Watt at The Bungalow, St Helens Neighbourhood House, 25 Circassian Street, St Helens from 3.30 pm – 4.30 pm on Monday 3rd May 2021. The purpose of this presentation is to introduce participants to a case study on a rural clustered settlement that German immigrants established in the Fingal Valley. The presentation will begin with background information about the methodology and research techniques used in the study. An overview of the study will focus on the local history of the Fingal Valley, and the recruitment

and settlement of German immigrants. The presentation will conclude with brief histories on particular German families as a basis to initiate discussion focusing on collecting documents and photographs about the families.

Michael Watt will be available by appointment on Tuesday 4th and Wednesday 5th May 2021 at the St Helens History Room (Backroom) to meet with any other interested persons, families or local historical organisations on this subject.

Please contact : Michael Watt on michaelgwatt@outlook.com.au or Kym Matthews on kym.matthews@bodc.tas.gov.au

## Caravan By Law

If you have a caravan on your property, you may be required to have a caravan licence under the BODC By law. You can find the Caravan By law under My Council / By Laws.

If you have a Caravan located on Vacant Land, on an Investment Property or being occupied for more than Sixty (60) nights per year then it is likely that you will be required to obtain a Caravan Licence under Councils By Law.

The intent of this by law is to ensure that the health and amenity of occupants are maintained, including appropriate disposal of waste. The By Law enables Council to ensure that equitable services

are obtained, for example, if a caravan is being used as a permanent or semi-permanent dwelling (more than 60 nights per year) the users of the caravan will be requiring access to services similar to a ratepayer however they will not be paying rates for these services, for properties that are vacant.

Council will be conducting audits around the municipality so please contact Council so that we can ensure you have the appropriate licences or approvals in place. Penalties may apply to those property owners who are in breach of Councils By Law.

## WHATS ON

### State League Netball Gala Day

#### **Saturday 1 May**

Held at the Bendigo Bank Community Stadium this event sees State Netball heavy weights Northern Hawks and the Cavaliers take to the court.

At 10:30am there will be friendly games between the local Div 3 teams with the headline matches taking place at 1 with the under 19a followed by the Opens at 2:30.

### East Coast Swans v Lilydale at Pyengana

#### **Saturday 1 May**

Held at the Pyengana Recreation Ground and will see the Swans honour the Pioneer football Club by wearing their guernseys. Kick-off 10:30am

### SCAMJAM

#### **Sunday 2 May**

Held at the St Marys Community Space Skate Park, this event features demos from pro-scooters, plenty of prizes, free food and drink and a pop-up shop provided by Scooter Stop.

### German settlers in the Fingal Valley exhibition

#### **Monday 3 May**

Held at the St Helens History Room - more info on this page.

### Bay of Fires Winter Arts Festival Friday 11 to Sunday 13 June

A range of events make up this annual festival including the \$20,000 Arts Prize. visit their website for more information: [www.bayoffireswinterartsfestival.com.au](http://www.bayoffireswinterartsfestival.com.au)

### St Helens Markets

#### **Every Saturday from 9am - 1pm**

Drop by the St Helens Markets in the Portland Hall and bag yourself a locally crafted gift or some fresh produce.

## SCAM JAM in St Marys

This year SCAM –JAM will be located at the new St Marys Community Space to make use of the brand new skate park features.

The event features competitions girls and boys from under 8 to over 18 as well as demonstrations from pro-scooter. There will be plenty of prizes up for grabs, not just for the winners including best trick, best stack and more.

The event is sponsored by Scooter Stop who has kindly donated many of the prizes and will also be bringing a pop-up shop of scooter gear with them.

The event will be held on Sunday 2 May from 10am – 4pm with food and drink provided. To enter, please contact Erica. mckinnell@bodc.tas.gov.au.

**"My partner always makes me feel guilty when I go out with my friends. They send me hundreds of text messages, checking where I am and who I'm talking to."**

**THIS IS EMOTIONAL ABUSE  
AND IT IS FAMILY VIOLENCE.**

Help and support is available.



Contact a specialist service or visit  
[www.safefromviolence.tas.gov.au](http://www.safefromviolence.tas.gov.au)  
for more information.



## Support services include:

- **Safe at Home Family Violence Response - 1800 633 937**
- **1800RESPECT (1800 737 732)**
- **Men's Referral service to counsel men who use family violence 1300 766 491**
- **LifeLine: 131114**
- **Kids Help Line: 1800 551 800**



## Council Works Updates

### Skyline Drive

These works are progressing well. The right hand turn lane, kerb and channel, installation of a traffic island and footpath have now been completed.

Sealing works are scheduled for Friday 30 April. Final line marking and some landscaping works will complete the project with an anticipated completion date of mid May.

While these works are in progress speed reduction and changed traffic conditions ahead signage will remain in place. Please drive with caution and look out for our road workers.

### St Helens Point Road

This project is nearing completion with sealing scheduled for May 14. Once sealing has been completed line marking will be undertaken.

### Gardens Road

Kerb and channel and road formation works are completed with final trimming to occur prior to sealing. Sealing is scheduled for May 7. Following sealing will be line marking and upgrading of the footpaths to a permanent status. A reduced speed limit will remain in place until line work is completed. We anticipate this project will be completed by the end of May.

### Forest Lodge Road

Landslip remediation works are completed. These works had to be completed before the bridge contractor could take safe possession of the site for installation of the new bridge. The new bridge will be installed by the end of May.

# MULCH \$20M<sup>3</sup>

Double mulched green waste suitable for garden use available from the St Helens Waste Transfer Station.

Bring your ute or trailer and we will load it for you.

**AVAILABLE BETWEEN  
10AM AND 2PM  
WEDNESDAY AND SUNDAY**

## 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](http://dpipwe.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/weeds)

## Maintenance Works

- ANZAC Services: Last week the Works crew were kept busy ensuring memorial parks were in perfect shape for ANZAC Day
- Flood Tidy-Up: The Valley crew continues to complete activities related to the last flood event
- Binalong Bay Bollards: Last week bollards were deliberately removed from the Binalong Bay viewing platform carpark. This type of inappropriate action consumes valuable time that takes crews away from their normal duties and in most cases has financial implications.



Above: bollards missing at Binalong Bay  
Below: Skyline Drive intersection works



You can find our newsletters online at [www.bodc.tas.gov.au/community/news-events/](http://www.bodc.tas.gov.au/community/news-events/)

## Can you help your community?

- Are you an experienced driver?
- Are you willing to volunteer one or more hours a week of your time to help others in our community get their licence?

If so, the Get in2 Gear program needs you.

The Learner Driver Mentor Program is a Tasmanian Government and Council funded program that supports our community members who are having difficulty getting their licence. This could be for a range of reasons from not having access to a vehicle to not having someone to help them with their hours.

If you would like to join our Learner Driver Mentors, please contact Jenna on 63767900



# GET IN2GEAR