

Next Council Meetings:  
19 May 2025 and 16 June 2025 at 10am in the Council Chambers

## From the General Manager - John Brown

Over Easter, I had the chance to step away and do a bit of travelling. As always, it was refreshing to explore new places, meet new people, and enjoy a change of scenery. But like always, being away made me appreciate just how lucky we are to live here in Break O'Day.

Coming home once again reminded me how beautiful this place is and how vibrant our community feels. We're fortunate to be surrounded by natural beauty—whether it's the stunning coastline, peaceful bushland, or our clear night skies. There's something special about this part of the world, it's easy to forget until you've spent a bit of time away.

What really stood out, though, was the energy and connection in the community. Whether it's the St Helens Market buzzing on a Saturday morning, the local footy and netball teams kicking off their seasons, people out enjoying the trails and parks or just catching up for coffee— it's encouraging to see the community thriving and working together to make Break O'Day such a welcoming and active place to live. We've got so much to offer here: the natural beauty, the lifestyle, and most importantly, a community that looks out for each other. It's great to get away—but even better to come back.

## Exciting Changes at Fingal Park

We've made great progress at Fingal Park, and it's exciting to see the changes taking shape. The pump track is finished, the car park has been resurfaced, and the playground is nearing completion. These are the kinds of upgrades that make our community spaces better for everyone, and we can't wait for you to enjoy these new facilities.

## Council Takes the Wheel on Recycling – Delivering Cost Savings and a New Local Job Opportunity

Break O'Day Council has brought kerbside recycling in-house to improve efficiency, deliver better value for ratepayers, and boost service reliability — while also creating a new local job. "As waste costs continue to rise, this change helps ease the pressure on our community," said Mayor Mick Tucker. "It also creates a new role — which we're proud to offer locally." Bringing the service in-house also means greater reliability. Previously, truck breakdowns caused delays while waiting for a backup from Launceston.

With a second truck now based in Break O'Day, the service will be more responsive and less likely to miss collections. "This move gives us more control and delivers better outcomes for everyone," Mayor Tucker added. The new driver will operate Council's waste collection trucks and support the broader outdoor works team. Council encourages interested, community-minded applicants to apply at: [www.bodc.tas.gov.au/council/employment-opportunities](http://www.bodc.tas.gov.au/council/employment-opportunities)

## Scamander Bowls Club Celebrates Third Straight State Title



Photo: Ross Wakefield, Jake Ihnen, Su Van Den Heuvel, Barry Le Fevre, Joe Sumrall, Grant Mc Cormack, Liz Baldwin, Chris Davern Michael Seymour, Christine Reeves, Peter Dunn, Bruce Reeves, Nick Child, Shane Pollington | Absent : Rose King, Vern Hodgetts, Steve Finearty, Darrell Thurley

Scamander Bowls Club has wrapped up another outstanding season, claiming its fourth East Coast Pennant title and an impressive third consecutive State Division 3 title — a first for the East Coast. After a nail-biting four-shot win over St Marys in the East Coast final, Scamander headed to Hobart to compete on Claremont Bowls Club's new synthetic green. There, they edged out Cressy by four shots, followed by a strong win over

Kingborough. In Sunday's State grand final, Scamander dominated Ridgley, winning by double digits — one by 26 shots — sealing the title in convincing fashion.

This marks Scamander's third State title in a row, a feat never before achieved by an East Coast team.

Congratulations to the Scamander Bowls Club, the players, and everyone involved who make this club such a success.

# ANZAC Day in Break O'Day – A Day of Remembrance and Community



Photo courtesy of Clr Johnstone: Dawn service at the Fingal cenotaph

Thank you to everyone who attended ANZAC Day services across Break O'Day. It was heartening to see so many— young and old—come together to honour those who served and sacrificed for our country. ANZAC Day is a time for reflection and for passing on the values of courage, mateship, and sacrifice to future generations. In St Helens, the community turned out in strong numbers, with close to 500 people at the dawn service and another 400 attending the 11am service.

At the St Marys 11am service, nearly 100 people gathered to pay their respects. In Fingal, over 100 attended the dawn service, followed by breakfast at the Neighbourhood House, while

## St Marys Exhibition Hall – Our Promise

Thank you to everyone who shared their thoughts about the future of the St Marys Exhibition Hall. You made it clear: you want the Hall to stay open for community use, and we're listening.

At our April Council meeting, the decision was made to keep the Hall open for the community. The next step is to make sure the building is safe and usable again. To that end, we'll be allocating \$100,000 in the 2025/2026 budget to carry out essential structural repairs and maintenance work. Our goal is to complete this work as soon as possible, starting in the new financial year. Council staff will be working with the experienced engineers and builders



Photo courtesy of Clr Johnstone: 11am service at the Mathinna War Memorial

in Mathinna, around 60 people came together for the 11am service, a shared community meal, and a visit to the beautifully restored church. Mayor Mick Tucker attended the St Helens services, Councillor LeFevre represented Council at the St Marys 11am service and Councillor Johnstone laid wreaths at both the Fingal and Mathinna services. A big thank you to the volunteers, RSL members, community groups, and individuals who helped make these services so special. Whether you laid a wreath, marched, helped with food, or simply attended—every act of remembrance mattered. It's moments like these that demonstrate how our community comes together.

to ensure everything's done to a high standard. Once this is sorted, we'll reconvene with the community to talk about what's next for the Hall, but for now, our focus is on getting it safe and ready for use.

Council also extends its appreciation to everyone who contributed to the recent Expression of Interest process. Your ideas are incredibly valuable, and while we'll put a decision about the future use or management of the Hall on hold for now, we will continue to work with you as we move forward.

The Break O'Day Council is committed to keeping the St Marys Exhibition Hall a safe space for our whole community.

## IN BRIEF

### NEXT STEPS FOR FORMER ST HELENS HOSPITAL

To ensure the safety of the community, Homes Tasmania has submitted a development application to demolish the former St Helens hospital building at 27 Cecilia Street following severe flood damage in February last year.

An assessment identified water contamination and mould and the site has been deemed unsuitable for residential development. Homes Tasmania does not intend to redevelop the site but is working with Break O'Day Council to explore future options.

Pending Council approval, demolition will be carried out by a licensed contractor. Community members can stay informed by emailing: [HousingProjects@homes.tas.gov.au](mailto:HousingProjects@homes.tas.gov.au)

### WINIFRED CURTIS SCAMANDER RESERVE CELEBRATES 30 YEARS

The St Helens History Room is pleased to present its latest exhibition, *Winifred Curtis Scamander Reserve Celebrates 30 Years*. This popular local reserve is a lasting legacy, cared for by a dedicated Board of Trustees. The display highlights the reserve's creation, the contributions of its namesake Dr Winifred Curtis, and the people who helped develop and expand it. It also reflects on the challenges faced over the years, including the 2006 wildfires. Our community owes much to the passionate residents who worked to create walking tracks and protect the unique East Coast dry sclerophyll forest. Visit the History Room to discover more about this remarkable reserve and its story.

### BIG SURPRISE FOR ST HELENS NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE

Congratulations to the St Helens Neighbourhood House on their grant from CommBank for \$120,000! As seen on Sunrise, The House thought they were only getting \$20,000 so this additional \$100,000 came as a shock to all! But what a great surprise and we can't wait to hear more about what amazing youth services this money will be used for. Well done to everyone involved; your hard work continues to make a real difference for our community.

## Positive Impact Community Consultation

Would you like to have your say about what is happening with tourism on the East Coast? Episteme is working with East Coast Tasmania Tourism to create a Positive Impact Plan and will be holding community engagement sessions in our area in May.

If you would like to share your views and feedback on the future of tourism on the East Coast you can register for one of the following sessions:

**St Marys** - Monday 12 May at 10am at the St Mary's Evacuation + Multi-purpose Centre.

**Scamander** - Monday 12 May at 5.30pm at the Scamander Sports Complex. Or meet Alli Anderson at the River Mouth Cafe for chat from 2-3pm.

## Bay of Fires Master Plan Consultation

Consultants, in partnership with Council are about to start community consultation for the Bay of Fires Master Plan. There will be three sessions times in three locations:

**Ansons Bay** - Sunday 11 May, 5 - 6:30pm at Ansons Bay Fire Station

**St Helens** - Tuesday 13 May at 5.30pm at Portland Hall (combined session with Bay of Fires Masterplan).

To register for one of the consultation sessions or to find out more about the project, go to [eastcoasttourism.com.au/current-projects/positive-impact-plan/](http://eastcoasttourism.com.au/current-projects/positive-impact-plan/) This project is about building a future where tourism strengthens our region—not just by supporting businesses, but also by protecting what makes the East Coast special and creating real life benefits for residents and visitors.

Positive impact is about the contribution tourism makes to local people and place - economically, socially, culturally and environmentally. It is also about minimising negative impacts.

**Binalong Bay** - Monday 12 May, 5:30 - 7:30pm at Binalong Bay Fire Station

**St Helens** - Tuesday 13 May, 5.30 - 7.30pm at Portland Hall (This session is in conjunction with East Coast Tourism's Positive Impact Plan - so come and have your say on both!

## Building Resilience in Ansons Bay

Over Easter, the community of Ansons Bay got their first look at a fantastic new resource—a Recovery Trailer to use when an emergency impacts on their community. Break O'Day Council secured funding through the Resilience and Recovery Tasmania Stream One Grant Program to purchase the recovery trailer. This project enabled Council to acquire essential assets for the community that can be used in the event of an emergency—particularly if Ansons Bay becomes isolated and unable to access a primary Council evacuation centre.

Equipped with a generator, BBQ facilities, water supply, tables, chairs, and three marquees, the trailer is designed to support emergency response efforts—and it's already proving to be a valuable community asset.

On Easter Saturday, the trailer was officially put to good use at a local community event that drew over 150 people. The trailer and its equipment were perfect for the day, providing shade, seating, and a BBQ lunch for



Photo: Mayor Tucker with members of the Ansons Bay Community Group

attendees also showing the community how to set up in case of an event.

Special thanks to Deputy Mayor Kristi Chapple for attending the event on behalf of Mayor Mick Tucker.

It was a great day for the Ansons Bay community—bringing people together and helping to build local resilience.

## WHAT'S ON

### East Coast Community Drama Classes - Every Thursday

Come along for some fun with Adriana and Alison. Make connections and be creative. 3.45-4.45pm every Thursday at Sunrock Studio, St Helens. For ages 6-17 years. Register at [eastcoastcommunitydrama@gmail.com](mailto:eastcoastcommunitydrama@gmail.com)

### Great East Coast Cleanup Month - May 2025

A month of community action, cleaning up spectacular beaches, parks and waterways on Tasmania's East Coast. Join a local community group or register your own activity. For more information contact [mel.fazackerley@landscaperecovery.org](mailto:mel.fazackerley@landscaperecovery.org)

### Bendigo Bank Community Stadium - Friday 9 May

Round two is here! Join St Helens Netball Association this week – first game starts at 4pm. Canteen's serving all your favourites: jacket potatoes, nachos, savs, dim sims, pies, and toasties.

### Van Diemen's Band - Nordic Voices - Friday 9 May

Performing string quartets from Scandinavia and Lutruwita/Tasmania. 6pm at Portland Memorial Hall. Tickets and information at [www.vandiemensband.com.au](http://www.vandiemensband.com.au)

### Waste NoT Awards 2025 – Closing 16 May

Applications are open until 5pm, Friday 16 May 2025. Now's your chance to showcase your waste reduction achievements! Visit the Waste NoT Awards website. Don't miss this opportunity to be recognised for your circular economy initiatives and inspire others across northern Tasmania!

### Medibank FREE Health Checks - 20-21 May

Grab a FREE mini health check and chat to the team about personal health cover. 9-4pm at the St Helens Skate Park carpark.

### RESET 8 Week Program - Wednesday 11 June

The RESET program offers a supportive group environment focused on building self-management, emotional regulation and capacity to improve resilience and overall quality of life. Designed for 18+ years. 10-12pm at St Helens District Health Service. For more information call Lynn on 0437413330.

### Bay of Fires Winter Arts Festival 6-15 June (Long Weekend)

The 2025 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/](http://www.bayoffireswinterartsfestival.com.au/)

### 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

- Lower Germantown Road bridge replacement commencing Monday 5 May.
- Penelope Street stormwater installation scheduled for late May
- Binalong Bay beach access improvement work in progress.
- Maintenance grading of Upper Scamander Road and Seymour in progress.
- Asphalt failure repairs on Mangana Road, Mathinna Road and Ansons Bay Road to be undertaken over the next few weeks.

### DEMOLITION OF EXISTING BBQ & CONSTRUCTION OF NEW BBQ SHELTER, BINALONG BAY

Council will be commencing construction of the New BBQ Facility at the Village Green in Binalong Bay. During the construction phase there will be partial closures for public access to the existing playground & BBQ Facility. There may also be times where existing walking tracks through the area will be closed with alternative routes available.

**Please obey signage and avoid construction areas.**

The project is expected to commence on Wednesday 7 May and be completed prior to Friday 11 July 2025 – weather permitting.

### WEED MANAGEMENT

- **Fingal** - Patterson's Curse, broadleaf, Spanish heath, gorse, thistles, broom, hemlock, capeweed
- **St Helens** - Spanish heath, thistles, broom
- **Binalong Bay** – mirror bush
- **Scamander** - broadleaf, Spanish heath
- **Cornwall** - Spanish heath, blackberry

### DOG STATISTICS APRIL 2025

Urban Patrols = 2  
Beach Patrols = 4  
Infringements = 0  
Unregistered Dog = 1  
Impounded dogs = 0

## Weed of the Month - gorse

Gorse is one of the worst weeds in Australia and Tasmania. While Break O'Day has some badly infested areas, much of the municipality is gorse free or nearly so. Many landholders have embarked on control programs.

Gorse seeds remain viable in the soil for up to 30 years so plan carefully and don't waste time and resources. Prevent seed production, start on isolated plants and patches; dig out smaller plants. Herbicides used safely and following the label are effective tools (cut-&-paint or spray). Gorse has some helpful biological control pests, and slashing, grazing, heaping and maybe fire can be useful methods to consider, but not without follow-up.

Make a long-term control plan with a range of control methods. Diligent annual follow-up is critical. And practice good hygiene to prevent gorse from spreading, EG. refuse dirty earthmoving machinery that might be carrying a 30 year headache.

For more information on identification, treatment and control look up gorse on the 'declared-weeds-index' at [nre.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/weeds](http://nre.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/weeds)



## Cash in Your Containers at St Helens

Recycle Rewards has set up a temporary collection point at the St Helens Tip Shop which is located at the St Helens Waste Transfer Station.

The Collection point will be operating Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10am till 2 pm.

Eligible containers include: aluminum cans, plastic bottles, glass bottles, cartons - under 1lt, steel bottles and cans.

Find out more about the Recycle Rewards Program at [www.recyclerewards.com.au](http://www.recyclerewards.com.au)

## How to Report a Streetlight Fault

When you notice a streetlight that isn't working, the quickest way to get it fixed is to report the fault directly to TasNetworks. Here's how:

1. Find the Pole Number
  - Look for the six digit number on the pole. It's on the middle plaque
2. Go to the TasNetworks Fault Reporting Page
  - Visit: [https://www.tasnetworks.com.au/power-outages/report-](https://www.tasnetworks.com.au/power-outages/report-a-streetlight-fault)



a-streetlight-fault

3. Fill in the Online Form

- Enter the six digit pole number.
- Provide the location and any extra details (time, nearby landmarks, etc.).
- Submit the form.

That's it! Once you've reported it, TasNetworks will schedule repairs as soon as possible.

Keeping our streets well lit is important for everyone's safety. Thank you for helping us keep Break O'Day bright!



# BREAK O'DAY VOLUNTEER FILM FESTIVAL



Everyone Welcome!

## FILM SCREENING

Gala event with light refreshments  
Join the fun!

Monday 12 May  
3.30 - 5.30pm  
Easy Tiger Cinema  
St Helens

Made by local volunteers to celebrate volunteering in Break O'Day!




Proudly supported by Easy Tiger

