

Next Council Meetings:
15 May and 26 June 2023 at 10am in the Council Chambers

From the General Manager - John Brown

We always knew that the Future of Local Government Review was going to be a lengthy process. Now some 18 months after the Minister for Local Government announced the review and, having worked our way through all of the fluffy theoretical stuff we are at the pointy end – the future of Council boundaries. Up until now, the participation of the Tasmanian community has been extremely low, which is understandable in some ways, it has been pretty boring dry old stuff. I wonder what will happen now? Maybe only a few more people will express their views about the geographic boundaries of the Council area covering our communities. The Local Government Board want the community to talk about it and provide their views. They have even suggested which council areas it is most logical for us to talk with. I have to say that I am quite perplexed by their apparent lack of recognition of connection along the East coast. The Board says that we should talk with Councils in the north-east corner as the community connection is strong in that direction. Having grown up in this area and spent time living in Pyengana, Fingal Valley and a few towns along the Coast I have a bit of an idea of where the connections are and how they have changed a bit over the last few decades. The bottom line is, the community has an opportunity to express its thoughts on the future boundaries of Councils. A decision will be made later this year, and then Legislation will head to Parliament for consideration. In 12 months time who knows what it all looks like, it will either be nothing or substantial change.... Not sure where I would put my money if I was a betting man.

We will be promoting Community Engagement sessions via our website and Facebook page so please keep an eye out for these opportunities. You can also find more information including links to the reports on our website under News.

Hospital Auxiliary half way to \$40,000 target



Members of the St Helens Auxiliary at the Volunteer Meet and Greet Event.

The St Helens Auxiliary have set themselves a goal of raising \$40,000 to purchase an electronic cardiac monitor for the St Helens Hospital.

This piece of equipment will save a trip to Launceston or Hobart for patients presenting with cardiac symptoms.

The equipment is mobile and can be calibrated to monitor young children as well as adults - in different areas of the hospital.

So far the Auxiliary have had amazing support from our community and have raised \$20,000 making them halfway to

their target.

The funds raised so far have come from their takings at the Tipshops, monetary donations as well as donations of goods for the group's major raffle and prizes for the chocolate wheel at their ANZAC lunch where 130 people attended.

If you would like to donate to this amazing cause, you can make a deposit at the Bendigo Bank.

Congratulations to the hardworking team at the St Helens Auxiliary – we are lucky to have such amazing and dedicated volunteers in our community.



Council crew members on the Binalong Bay Foreshore undertaking weeding and rehabilitation works

Binalong Bay Weed Management

Members from our works crew joined a team from the Parks and Wildlife Service to control weeds invading the foreshore bushlands at Binalong Bay. Blackberry, passion vine, pittosporums, blue periwinkle and other weeds were removed and stumps of larger plants poisoned. Rehabilitation areas were

cleared, mulched and planted with local native seedlings grown from seed and cuttings from the area. Follow-up weeding and replanting is planned for later in the year as part of the joint Weed Management Plan for Binalong Bay Foreshore Reserve.

Aquatic Facility - what are the next steps?

Break O'Day Council is examining the possibility of constructing and operating an Aquatic Facility in our area.

The investigations and ultimately decision making around a potential Aquatic Facility in the area will be the most complex and ultimately future shaping project to be considered by the Council since the amalgamation of Portland and Fingal Councils creating Break O'Day in 1993. A decision to build and manage an Aquatic Facility will be lived with for future generations.

The provision of an indoor aquatic centre within the Break O'Day area has been wanted by some members of the community for more than 20 years. The push for a centre can be traced back to October 2002 when the Break O'Day Aquatic Centre Committee Inc was formed with the specific purpose of pursuing the establishment of an aquatic centre in St Helens. Previous examinations relating to the feasibility of building and operating such a facility showed it to be not viable for the community and Council at the time.

In May 2021 the Council discussed whether we should have another look at the feasibility of some form

of aquatic facility. Council does not want to create an expectation that one would be built without really looking at what this would look like and mean for our community. Councillors want to review the situation and look in detail at; other similar aquatic facilities; being open to where it might be located; financial costs and fee structure; what our community actually wants and needs; and what the ongoing cost to the community will be when the preferred type of facility is agreed.

To make sure that the community's voice is front and centre in this process we will be establishing a Working Group that will be made up of:

- Break O'Day Councillors (2)
- Aquatic Facility Committee (1)
- General community representatives (2)
- Health sector representative (1)

If you would like to be involved with this project – you can find out more, including an application form on our website under My Community / Community Engagement. If you would prefer a hard copy, you can collect one from our office, we would also be happy to email or mail you one if this is easiest for you.



Image for illustrative purposes only.

Planning for the Future - Financial Sustainability

At the April Council Meeting the Council adopted our Financial Management Strategy 2023/2030. This document will provide a framework for Council when making financial decisions. You can find a copy of this document on our website under My Council/Council Documents.

The key focus of the Strategy is to ensure we maintain financial sustainability in the medium and long term while achieving our strategic objectives.

It is important to note that the Financial Management Strategy is not about

deciding on what Council will spend on individual projects. The Financial Management Strategy is about the various strategies, directions and assumptions that will determine and influence the amount of funds that Council will have at its discretion in future years.

The Financial Management Strategy and the associated Long Term Financial Plan are the guiding documents used when we are developing budget estimates.

IN BRIEF

Seeking Members - Access Advisory Committee

The Break O'Day Access Advisory Committee is seeking new members. Members of this committee work with Council to remove barriers and provide support to ensure that everyone in our community has the chance to participate and engage. The goal of the committee is to create a more inclusive and equitable community where everyone has an equal chance to succeed. If you would like to be part of this committee, please email admin@bodc.tas.gov.au and provide a brief description of what you think you can bring to the committee and our community.

Break O'Day Carers Group

Break O'Day Carers Group meet at St Helens Neighbourhood House on the 4th Tuesday of every month. If you are caring for someone or interested in helping carers, please come along.

Some of the things we do are:

- Allow carers to discuss their concerns and difficulties in confidence or just let off steam;
- Arrange speakers for various concerns eg., COTA, dementia, Public Trustees;
- Identify local issues around the area and inform the required services;
- Assist with research run by organisations such as COTA;
- Find out information about services available which are not usually publicised.

Contact: 6373 6160 or 6376 1131 or 0498 105 201 for more information.

Where, Where, Wedgie?

Over the weekends of 12-14 and 26-28 May Tasmanians can join this citizen science project to put wedge tailed eagles in your area on the map and add to the monitoring data. For details and survey app see naturetrackers.com.au/projects/where-where-wedgie/.

Township Plan Update

We are continuing to work through and develop our Township Plans. These plans are developed with community input and aim to provide Council with an understanding of what each community sees as important. It includes activities that Council and the community can work on together, because of this it is really important that we hear from you! At the April Council meeting Council formally adopted the Binalong Bay, Scamander and Falmouth Township Plans. Council also endorsed the following plans to go out for the final

round of community feedback; Ansons Bay, St Helens and St Marys. Submissions for these Township Plans close on 11 May. You can find the draft Township plans on our website under My Community/Community engagement. You can also call in to the office and pick up a hard copy if you prefer.

Community feedback for the Cornwall, Fingal and Mathinna Township Plans has now been finalised and will be presented to Council for their feedback and adoption at the May Council Meeting.

Did you know that we have Township Databases? This is the best way for us to communicate directly with you. – If you would like to be added to one of our township databases please email admin with your: Name, Address, Township, Phone and Email address

Fingal Housing Project - Housing for those in need

On the 26 April, Council staff, alongside representatives from CentaCare Evolve Housing held a community information forum about a Housing project proposed for Fingal.

The meeting was held at the Fingal Valley Neighbourhood House where approximately 30 attendees spoke with CentaCare and Council staff and learned more about the project including looking at concept designs.

This proposed project would see eight Independent Living Units built on Council land located at 29 Talbot Street, behind the Old Council Chambers. The aim of this project is to provide much needed housing for those in our community who are currently on the Social Housing Register and desperately looking for Housing. The housing will be made available to those already living in Break O'Day over the age of 55.

Council has repeatedly heard from the

community that we need to look at ways to provide housing solutions to those in need in our community and this project is one of the ways we are able to do this.

The majority of concerns which arise about these housing projects stems from a lack of knowledge around how Social Housing works - it is a totally different model to the old style community housing. CentaCare Evolve provide wrap around services for tenants who have a Tenancy Officer assigned to them. CentaCare also carefully select tenants for each unit and work with them to ensure they have all they need to integrate into our wonderful communities.

If you would like to know more about this project please send any questions you may have to admin@bodc.tas.gov.au and we will get back to you with answers.



Concept drawing of the proposed development for Fingal. This is subject to change and is a concept only

WHAT'S ON

Live Well Live Long

Thursdays - 4 May - 8 June

This free six week program is aimed at people over 65 and aims to help you live well and live longer. For more information or to book your place call Lynn on 6387 5555.

Park Run Launch

6 May 8:30am for 9am start

Join the organisers in celebrating the newest parkrun in Tasmania - O'Connors beach parkrun. A free, weekly & timed 5km course - parkrun is an all inclusive event welcoming all whether you walk, jog, run or want to volunteer.

Scooter Jam

7 May

Held at the St Marys Community space this event is a youth week celebration – this event features a competition, prizes and demonstrations. For more information go to the Youth Collective North East Coast Tasmania Facebook page.

Women's Health Clinic

8,9 and 10th May

Held at Ochre Health St Helens, this Clinic will have a female Dr, Sue Hampton onsite. To make an appointment call Ochre Medical on 6376 1777

Jack jumpers basketball Clinic

13 May

Held at the Bendigo Bank Community Stadium. For more information or to register go to www.jackjumpers.com.au/pages/basketball-clinics.

With One Voice

27 May

Held at the St Marys Golf Club this Club Choir event includes singing and food, lucky door prize and loads of fun! Early bird \$30 with transport from St Helens available for \$10. For more information and to make a booking phone Liz – 0439 001 533

Diabetes Tasmania Free education session

28 May @ the Portland Hall

Bookings essential, to book or for more information go to events.ndss.com.au

Shefali Pryor – Virtuosi Tasmania

June 2

Held at the Portland Hall, Tickets \$25 concession, \$30 Adults. Go to www.virtuositas.org.au

St Marys car, Bike and Pedal Car Show 11 June

This year's event will have no road closures or allocated car spots. Just park your pride and joy along Main Street, Faulkner's Ground or the grassed area near the Cranks & Tinker Museum.

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

- Cecilia Streetscape, St Helens underway. This work will take approx. 6 weeks to complete but will have minimal traffic impact.
- St Helens Point Rd, St Helens – Road reconstruction and sealing completed outside Parkside.
- North Ansons Road, Ansons Bay – 1800 metres of road now sealed.
- Mowing – all areas continues due to rainfall and growth.
- Eddystone Point, Ansons Bay – Resheeting now complete.
- St Marys Hall – New roof now installed.



Cecilia Streetscape works are underway

SIGNAGE THEFT

There has been an increase in road signs being stolen in the area. These signs are important for driver safety and stealing them is an offence. If you see any suspicious behavior, please call Tasmania Police

WEED MANAGEMENT

St Helens - Broadleaf, multiple weed varieties.
Stieglitz - Mirror bush, caper spurge
St Marys - Pampas, thistles, broadleaf
St Helens - Multiple weed varieties
Binalong Bay - Blackberry, mirror bush, sweet pittosporum and other weed varieties

DOG STATISTICS 10/03/2023 - 5/04/2023

Urban Patrols = 6
 Beach Patrols = 10
 Infringements = 8
 Unregistered Dog = 7
 Impounded dogs = 0

Weed of the month - Gorse

Gorse is a declared weed in Tasmania and a Weed of National Significance. Break O'Day has a large infestation of gorse making it important to prevent the spread to areas that are currently unaffected or areas where numbers are small. Gorse spreads predominately by being carried in soil and mud on machinery or boots, therefore machine and equipment hygiene is essential in preventing the spread. Depending on the plant, gorse can be physically removed or treated with herbicide (spraying or using the cut stump method). If using an herbicide,

please follow the label instructions. If possible, removal or treatment is best before plant has matured and is producing seeds (approximately 18 months).



Groundwater and water pooling

For a few months now we have received calls from residents concerned with the amount of water which is appearing and pooling on their property. This water pooling is caused by groundwater and is a result of an excessive amount of groundwater inflow.

This is particularly so in Scamander and to a lesser extent, other areas in Break O'Day. For several months now we have had an extended wet weather period. This weather impacts on the groundwater levels. Groundwater is found in aquifers which are geological formations that store and spread water. There are some significant aquifers in our area including a large one that sits under most of Scamander and Beaumaris.

Any excavation or building footing located below the water table is more likely to encounter groundwater flow. After periods of extended rainfall, excavations and footings made above the water table may also become temporarily affected by groundwater due to what is known as an 'excessive recharge', this results in the rise of the water table.

Unfortunately, groundwater is not something that Council can control or manage, it is a natural event and not something that we can assist with. You can find more information on groundwater for North East Tasmania on the NRE website, nre.tas.gov.au.

COMING SOON

Break O'Day Community

WELLBEING CERTIFICATE



CREATE MORE WELLBEING FOR OTHERS + YOURSELF

Join a FREE 8 week program to strengthen your wellbeing muscles.
 Spend a few hours each week doing fun, action-based activities + learning together in a group.

Get ideas + tips to enhance wellbeing at home, at work + in your community.
 Design a community project to create more wellbeing for those around you.

STARTING IN JULY

find out more @ www.wellbeingaction.org

Connect with Leah at Break O'Day Council wellbeing@bodc.tas.gov.au 6376 7900

Thank you Cheryl Mobbs for your fabulous photo :)



Supporting Partner
THE WELLBEING LAB