

From the General Manager John Brown

The clock is quickly ticking down towards the opening of the new Mountain Bike Trails later this year.... something which we are acutely aware of as the various threads we are working on start coming together in a frantic last few months of activity. The interest and engagement of the business community in the project is readily apparent. The most recent Information Session we held on 20 August was attended by approximately 50 people who received an update on the trail project and the elements Council are currently working on including commercial relationships. The business community are recognising the economic benefits which will be coming with the trails and there has been strong interest from businesses towards providing financial support for trail maintenance and development. A Trails Ambassador Program is in the final stages of development by Council officers and will be released shortly which provides a formal structured mechanism for financial support to occur. This is a key element of developing financial sustainability in relation to the MTB Network. It is also important that the experience of riders and visitors extends beyond using the trails themselves which means that related infrastructure and activities are also in place for the opening. There is an opportunity for a small scale commercial business to be established at the Flagstaff Trail Head which is a key part of meeting the needs of riders and visitors. This will occur through a public Expression of Interest process which will be advertised shortly. The St Helens MTB Project is a complicated project, it is far more than just building some trails. It is about ensuring all elements which will make this project an ongoing success for the Break O'Day area come together.



The newly refurbished Cunningham Street Jetty is now open!

Refurbished Cunningham Jetty OPEN

Two members of the Council works crew, Brett Pallier and Rex Floyed have been working hard on the Cunningham jetty and they have done an amazing job.

The jetty was in a terrible state and had to be closed in December 2017 for safety reasons but check it out now!

The new jetty is a bit longer than the previous and also higher so that it won't be affected by high tides anymore.

The new jetty has a bench seat, fish scale table and a Hook, Line and Sinker

collection container. And good news for anglers, one keen fisherman has already caught a few fish from the new jetty! A pot-bellied seahorse has also been spotted hanging around the pylons so keep an eye out for him as well.

Back in December 2017, we were forced to close the Cunningham and Talbot Street jetties as they were deemed unsafe for the public. Then in February 2018, the State Government promised us some funding to refurbish jetties in our area.

MTB - Business Ready Sessions

With the aim of giving our local businesses all the information and tools needed to be ready for mountain bike visitors, we are running Business Information Sessions.

The next sessions will be held at

Tidal Waters from 5:30 – 7pm on:
23 September, 22 October and 14 November.

Irapuna Community Weekend success

More than 120 volunteers and PWS staff spent three days at the start of August walking our Irapuna / Bay of Fires coastline scouring over 50km of beaches for marine debris and the beach weed 'sea spurge'.

After six years, the Irapuna Community Weekend is helping stop the invasive sea spurge from invading the east coast. 27,000 sea spurge plants were hunted down this year and 11,000 of them removed by volunteers. More than a third of the 338 pieces of marine debris collected with IMAS/UTas researchers from Adrift Lab were plastic, some were tiny fragments that are deadly for many marine birds and fish.

The Irapuna Community Weekend is also about the natural and cultural heritage of this spectacular coastline and bringing people together to share their knowledge, enjoyment and

connection to place.

Irapuna Community Weekend is organised by the Parks and Wildlife Service with the Wildcare Friends of Irapuna Coast with the support of a host of other partners including Council, the Tasmanian Walking Company, Healthy Tasmania, Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania, Friends of Eddystone Lighthouse and Adrift Lab at IMAS/UTas.

Beach walkers interested in volunteering to help with a coordinated effort for a sea spurge free East Coast can contact wildcare.irapunacoast@gmail.com and should register with local PWS offices. Care is needed when weeding sea spurge as its white sap is toxic and between spring and autumn disturbance of significant species of birds that nest and raise chicks on the beach affects their breeding success and survival.



Participants working hard clearing our beaches of debris and sea spurge.

FREE Digital Ready Programs in St Helens

Website Fundamentals 10am-noon on August 30, Tidal Waters

The new MTB trails will be soon launched and with it many business opportunities. It's time to add a bit of polish to your existing website or start planning for a new site. In this website fundamentals session, Kingthing team members will break it down bit by bit so you will be able to make choices for your business.

Social Media Fundamentals 4-6pm on August 30, Tidal Waters

Whether you already have business social media accounts or you need to understand what platforms to use, then the social media fundamentals

session is for you.

Kingthing will answer the age-old questions of 'what do I say', 'when do I say it', 'how many times a week do I post,' and 'what if someone posts a negative comment on my account?' They will share some posting tips and introduce you to some tools to help make managing your social channels easier.

They will also be running **one-on-one mentoring sessions on 5 and 6 September** which can be booked online. We will promote this on our Facebook page, website and via our business email database.

Business Survey

In order to understand the affect that mountain bike visitation will have on our economy we have developed a Business Information Survey. In order to establish a benchmark before the trails open we have already sent out the first survey to around 130 Break O'Day businesses.

If you have received this survey, it should only take you five minutes to complete and we would appreciate your feedback. Any information that you provide us will be confidential and while we will publish reports, any identifiable individual information will be removed. We are also happy to provide your business with an individual report of the information that you provide so that you can compare it and use it to make business decisions. If you are a business in Break O'Day and you have not received the survey, please email, jayne.richardson@bodc.tas.gov.au

Official MTB Opening

The official St Helens Mountain Bike Opening will be held on Friday 22 November but we will also be organising a family friendly open day on the Saturday 23rd. We are still finalising all the details but one thing we can tell you is that it will be a fun-filled event with something for everyone to enjoy. So come along and invite all your friends and family.

Rates Reminder

A reminder that the first rates instalment or payment is due by 10 September 2019 in full. Please note it can take up to three days for electronic payments to be received by Council, to avoid a penalty or interest being charged, please make your payment a few days earlier.

If you would like to register to receive your rates by email head to our website and click on the Rates heading under My Property and the Rates payment tab. You can also register for Rates reminders by SMS message, all you have to do is contact us and make sure we have a mobile number for you.

Scamander Community Drop-In Session

On Wednesday 7 August we held a Community Drop-In session at the Scamander Sports Complex for Scamander and Beaumaris residents. During the development of our 10 year Strategic Plan we visited 10 townships and promised that we would come back and discuss individual township plans with residents. So far we have visited nine townships and developed seven Township plans, which can be found on our website. These plans are used to help Council understand the focus of the community so we can then prioritise projects and spending in each town. Approximately 37 people attended the Scamander Drop-in session where a

variety of ideas were raised under the headings of Environment, Lifestyle and Other. We also used this opportunity to discuss the Wrinklers Lagoon concept designs with the community. After listening to the community we have amended our plans for the area removing the dump point from the concept design. This draft plan will now go to Council for consideration. Once all information from the session has been collated it will be released as a draft for consideration and will be emailed to all those that attended and left their email addresses at the session. We will let you know when the draft is ready by promoting it through our Facebook page.

Drought Community Fund to benefit the Fingal Valley

Thanks to a \$1 million Drought Communities grant, Break O'Day Council (BODC) will start working on a variety of projects in the Fingal Valley aimed at activating employment and economic opportunities.

The Fingal Valley, due to its focus on agriculture, has been impacted by the drought with not just farmers but the entire community feeling the economic pinch.

The aim of the Federal Government's Drought Community Funding is to support local community infrastructure projects that focus on stimulating local community spending, use local resources and provide lasting benefit to communities and the agricultural industries on which they depend.

With these guidelines in mind, BODC first started looking at projects that had been raised by the Fingal Community for inspiration. They also advertised an Expression of Interest for employees that could undertake labour style work. Through this process the Council identified several walking tracks in the area that had been flagged as needing work as well as a number of infrastructure projects proposed by the community.

Council is working in partnership with Parks and Wildlife on some of the trail projects which include; Mathinna Falls, Gray Mares Tail Falls and the St Patricks

Head track. Once these projects are completed, these striking trails will be more easily accessible for visitors to the Fingal Valley.

In terms of infrastructure projects, recently developed Local Township Plans were reviewed and projects identified for inclusion were a Bus Shelter at Mathinna, a shelter at Fingal Park, St Marys Cemetery revitalisation and streetscape works in Fingal. Some of these projects had been on the Council's wish list for some time just waiting for funding, the Drought Community Funding has allowed the Council to effectively move up the timeline for many of these projects.

Through the implementation of these projects six full time positions have been created for a period of 20 weeks. Council has also ensured that local contractors and business will receive first priority as contractors or service providers during the term of the project.

"Not only are we creating short term employment and the opportunity for skill development, we are able to provide much needed infrastructure to the community that they have been asking for." Mayor Mick Tucker said.

"Best of all, we have selected projects that will provide visitors with more reasons to stop and enjoy the beautiful Fingal Valley."

What's On

Georges Bay Music Lunch and Munch 30 August

Georges Bay Music invites you to their monthly concert. Held at Tidal Waters from 12 noon - 2pm with Special Guests Don Ives, his talented sax players, Phil Pitcher and Damon Warner, our own band members and the St. Patrick's College Big Band. Admission \$8 members and \$12 for non-members.

Homelessness FREE Drop-In information sessions

Every Wednesday

Are you currently without a home? Do you need information about what support and services are available to you? OR Do you want to get involved in your local community to help combat homelessness? Come along and join us every Wednesday morning 10am til 11am - everyone welcome, contact Trish on 6376 1134 for more information.

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.

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.

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.

Bendigo Bank Community Stadium Events

Every Friday from 4:15 - Netball
(all August games are finals)
Every Monday from 4:15 - Basketball
Pain and Gain Weekly Sessions

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Capital Works Projects - August/September

- Scamander footpath works commencing
- Ansons Bay Road grading underway
- Toilet block under construction at Flagstaff Trailhead
- Reids Road Bridge being replaced
- Fingal Waste Transfer Station (WTS) retaining wall under construction
- New Jetty at Cunningham Street now officially open and looking great!



The new retaining wall at the Fingal WTS is underway.



The new bridge on Reids Road.

Do you know about the history of St Helens?

August is FREE locals month!

Head along to the St Helens History Room during August and learn all about the heritage and culture of St Helens and surrounds.

**Displays include:
Aboriginal tools, shell displays,
Hatches and Despatches, mining
and much, much more.**

www.sthelenshistoryroom.com.au

Weed of the month - Patersons Curse



Paterson's Curse is an agricultural weed and is declared in Tasmania. It can produce up to 5000 seeds per plant each year if left to flower. This time of year it is in its 'rosette' stage and they typically flower in spring. Due to its relatively small numbers and



significance it is extremely important to control.

Break O'Day is a Zone A area for Patersons Curse meaning eradication rather than containment and now is the best time for treatment. Small plants can be dug out ensuring the tap root is removed. They can also be carefully spot sprayed with a registered herbicide. When treating any weed, remember the 'outside in' rule, working from the outside of the infestation into the middle.

For more information on identification and control of this invasive weed please visit <http://dpiw.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/weeds/weeds-index/declared-weeds-index/patersons-curse-and-vipers-bugloss>

St Marys Flood Mitigation update

The planned works for the St Marys Flood Mitigation works include reducing flood risks by lifting The Flat Bridge and a levee bank to protect housing behind Story Street upstream of Groom Street, and a flash flood warning system involving a new rain gauge and flood alert communications. Depending on the receipt of funding, works could start in October, but most are planned for early next year.

Earlier this year Council followed up the 2017-18 flood studies project with the St Marys Flood Risk Management Plan 2018-2023. Other priorities in the plan include management of vegetation, particularly below Story Street, and developing flood response plans, triggered by the flash flood warning system. It also recognises that the value of the Rivulet as a natural asset for the town needs to be considered. Flood risks are felt across the community and Council will continue to work with households, business and groups in St Marys to avoid, be ready for and recover from floods together.



Map of the St Marys showing areas affected by flood.