

## From General Manager - John Brown

I thought I would take a slightly different tack in this month's newsletter. It is interesting to stop for a moment and take stock of where our community is at and what is happening. Recently we have been out talking to the community about the impact of Covid-19 on their lives and ideas for what could be done to address the impact of what we are going through and strengthen the community moving forward. From this valuable information a report is being developed for discussion with Councillors about things we can work with the community to implement or undertake ourselves. There is always a lot of work in undertaking these engagement sessions and we really appreciate the time taken by community members to come and participate so thank you to those who took part. It is also good to thank the Council team members who made this happen as their other day-to-day work doesn't go away. We always have a few projects that need to happen to complete something that started in the distant past. A couple of those are finally happening which is great to see. The Georges Bay Foreshore track as we currently know it was built nearly 30 years ago and now one of the 'missing links' is finally being constructed. I don't think there is any workplace in St Helens prouder of their work than the team at Lyndcraft for the bridge they are creating, and not to mention the craftsmanship I can see from a distance on the stonework by Streetwise. I can't wait to be able to walk along this new section of track. One that has stood out in the Fingal valley has been the Old Tasmanian Hotel at Fingal. Purchased by the former Fingal Council in 1984 renovating the top storey has always seemed like a pipe dream! Now some 36 years later it is nearly complete with the final stage being installation of a lift which we are waiting to arrive. This will mean that 2 'legacy' projects have been dealt with which is incredibly satisfying and something which the community will greatly enjoy using.



Contractors lifting a section of the new pedestrian bridge in to place.

## New Georges Bay pedestrian and cycle bridge provides a missing link

This morning in St Helens, the new cycle and pedestrian bridge was lifted into place where Medeas Cove meets Georges Bay. The new dual use bridge now sits alongside the traffic bridge known locally as the Golden Fleece Bridge.

Part of the Georges Bay Multi-user track extension project which, received \$2.1 million in Federal funding, the bridge was designed by local boat builder Lyndcraft. The bridge features a whale bone design and joins up to an elevated walkway that was installed last week. The walkway then connects with a gravel track which is still under construction.

The bridge will now have the decking installed with the side panels of the bridge the last piece of the project to be put into place before the entire project is officially unveiled in November.

"We're pretty proud of this bridge," Managing Director of Lyndcraft Greg Lynd said.

"Initially the design was for a truss style bridge but as it's the entry to town, the team and I really wanted to see something a bit special, we wanted to leave a real legacy for future generations."

Break O'Day Mayor, Mick Tucker said that it was great to see the pride and initiative that Lyndcraft had shown as

well as the support that the project was getting from the community.

"There is no doubt that the community can't wait to test out the bridge and the track extension once we can officially open it," he said.

"And how great will it be to see people riding and walking around the bay, we just can't wait."

The completion of the project will enable pedestrians and cyclists to walk or ride all the way from the corner of St Helens Point Rd and the Tasman Hwy to the centre of the St Helens township. Users will be able to enjoy following scenic Georges Bay while remaining safely off the road. It will also allow mountain bikers to park in town and ride to the St Helens Mountain Bike Trails trailhead at Flagstaff.

"This project, while separate to the trails themselves really complements them adding to the experience for riders while at the same time providing the community with an amazing asset to our town," Mayor Tucker said.

"This really is a true community project; we were able to have the bridge constructed here in St Helens and we have been able to use local contractors for other parts of the project as well and we are pretty proud of that."

## St Helens is Tassie's Top Tourism Town

Did you hear that St Helens is now officially Tasmania's Top Tourism Town! Run by the Tourism Industry Council Tasmania, 50% of our score was determined by public vote through the Mercury's website. St Helens narrowly beat Stanley for overall bragging rights with Stanley winning reader's choice. The submission included a two minute video shot by local legend Simon Holmes of Big Shed Studios, edited by Jasper Da Seymour and starring St Helens locals, as well as a 500 word itinerary, six high quality images and a four day itinerary.

The overall submission was a

collaborative effort from Council as well as the Break O'Day Chamber of Commerce.

The prize pack includes a comprehensive marketing package including \$2000 in cash for marketing purposes, as well as promotion via the Spirit of Tasmania and Tas.Vacations. Council and the Chamber will work together to work out how best to use this money.

Any businesses wanting to access the video or other material for their own promotion can contact Jayne. richardson@bodc.tas.gov.au.



Above: A screen shot from the video entry featuring St Helens' Happy Fish swimmers at Beauty Bay.

## Portland Hall gets a mini-makeover

The Portland Hall in St Helens has had a bit of a facelift!

Starting in March 2020 and completed in August 2020, the works included an extension for new unisex toilet facilities suitable for people with disabilities. This now ensures that amenities cater for many users including those with vision and physical impairment. The new toilet design also includes a baby change facility.

Council also replaced the northern facing windows with windows that can be automatically opened and closed and this included the replacement of

window furnishings.

The facility has also undergone a range of electrical upgrades which included the removal of the old gas heating system which has been replaced with radiant heaters which will more efficiently heat the hall and are very easy to use.

The previous ladies toilets have now been removed and added to the previously existing storage space meaning storage has now doubled in size which will allow easy access for users and is more suitable for the future.

**Do you have someone you would like to say Thank you to?**

Drop into the office and grab one of our FREE thank you cards and magnets. You can fill out yourself or we can send it for you.

**Let someone know how appreciated they are today!**



## IN BRIEF

### Fingal's new pedestrian Bridge

Have you noticed the new pedestrian bridge in Fingal?

Built and installed by the Break O'Day Council Valley Works crew, the new bridge has been completed to ensure wheel chair access.

We look forward to seeing the bridge get some use by the Fingal Community.



The new pedestrian bridge in Fingal

### Council's Local Provision Scheme - where we are at

The draft Local Provisions Schedule (LPS) is now with the Tasmanian Planning Commission (TPC) who are undertaking an initial review. Once the TPC are happy the document complies with their requirements it will be released for public comment.

The Public Comment phase will be advertised in the Examiner as well as our Facebook page with a copy of the plan placed on our website for review. The public exhibition period will be for a 60 day period.

You can find more information on the process on our website under MY Community / Community Consultation.



# Responsible dog ownership and you

## Unregistered Dogs

Registering your dog is an important part of being a responsible dog owner and it is a legal requirement under the State Govt. Dog Control Act which Council must enforce. Registration not only helps us keep a record of all dogs in our area, it also helps us determine who a lost pup belongs to.

Just a reminder to all those who haven't registered their dog/s that Council officers will be conducting property inspections in September and October. All dogs that are found unregistered will result in \$172 fines for each dog

## Walking your Dog In Public

It is important to remember that not everyone loves dogs and in recent times there have been a couple of incidents with dogs/owners behaving badly.

Please remember that to please keep your dog on a lead at all times unless in designated off lead areas. This is especially important on beach areas

that have been designated as bird nesting sites. It is really important that we have a balance between the natural environment as well as dog ownership which is why we have such a range of on-lead, off-lead and no dog zones. (You can find out more on our website under MY Property / Dogs.)

## Please clean up after your Dog

There are a number of areas unfortunately where dog owners are not cleaning up after their dogs, this includes beaches.

Please always carry small plastic bags or grab some of Council's dog tidy bag dispensers when walking your pooch in public.

If you get caught leaving your dog's poop, infringements will be issued because there is nothing worse than stepping in a "Terrier Twirl".

# We want your feedback on a proposed dog exercise area at Binalong Bay

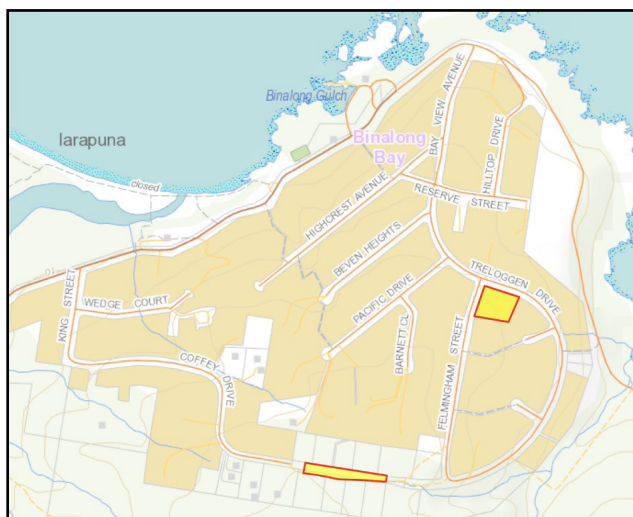
We would like your thoughts on the location of a new dog exercise area at Binalong Bay.

Two possible areas have been identified by Council; parkland on Felmingham Street, and Crown Land between Coffey Drive and Felmingham St.

You can find an information paper including; background, details and maps of the areas on our website under My Community / Community

Consultation.

Council will consider public comments it receives on these two options when deciding on developing and Declaring a dog Exercise Area for Binalong Bay. Submissions must be received before Monday 21 September 2020 – delivered or posted to Council's office at 32-34 Georges Bay Esplanade, St Helens, or by email to [admin@bodc.tas.gov.au](mailto:admin@bodc.tas.gov.au).



Map shows both proposed location options for a Dog Exercise area.

# Drought Communities Funding

Break O'Day Council has been successful in receiving \$1million through the Australian Government's Drought Community Program funding Round 2.

The funding will be spread across four main areas with 12 projects in total including;

1. The Fingal Valley Walking Track Project (Continuation)
2. Fingal Valley Cemetery upgrades
3. Enhancing our Community Building Projects
4. Enhancing our Streetscapes

## The walking track project includes;

- PWS track work
- St Marys Rivulet – Upgrade of existing walking track
- New Mathinna Recreation Ground Track

The Fingal Valley Cemetery works include upgrades for Fingal and Mathinna cemeteries.

## Enhancing our Community Building Projects includes:

- Fit out of the Scamander Life Saving facility
- Installation of a lift at the Old Tas Hotel in Fingal
- Upgrades to the St Marys Recreation Ground Facilities
- St Marys Community Space.

## Enhancing our Streetscapes projects include:

- Mathinna Streetscape works
- Cornwall Township Improvements

This funding allows Council to employ four workers to undertake this work. The positions were advertised in June and have been filled. We have even already started on some of these projects including the St Marys Community Space and St Marys Recreation Grounds.

As the focus on this grant funding is to assist communities who have suffered economically through drought conditions, we are ensuring that where possible we utilise local contractors for project work.

## Capital Works Projects - September

- Emergency foreshore erosion protection works taking place at "Possum Tom", Parkside to prevent undermining of the road embankment through wave action. Works involve the construction of a rock armour barrier wall and embankment benching.
- Road grading and maintenance activities on Councils road network in the Mathinna Area.
- Recent storm damage works—fallen trees removed along Mangana Road and trimming of damaged trees (all areas) in progress.
- Four Mile Creek Bridge refurbishment – off-site works approaching completion that include protective coating renewal and fitting of a new deck. Bridge to be re-erected on site at end of September.



The New pedestrian bridge for Four Mile Creek.

### ATTENTION LOCAL CONTRACTORS

**We are busy preparing civil  
works tenders so keep an  
eye on our website for any  
opportunities.**

## Tip Shops Now OPEN

### St Helens Tip Shop

Sunday to Friday 11am – 2pm,

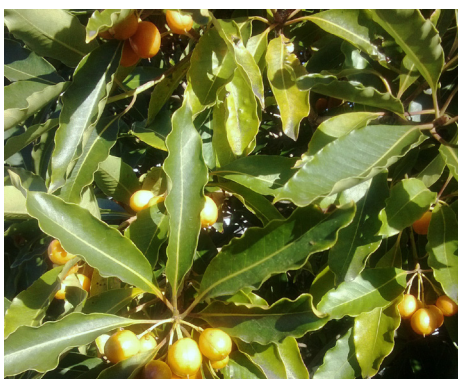
Saturday 11am – 4pm

### St Marys Tip Shop

Tuesday and Thursday 11am – 3pm,

Sunday 2pm – 4pm

## Weed of the month Sweet pittosporum



Sweet pittosporum (*Pittosporum undulatum*) is a shrub to tree found in gardens, along fence lines and invading bushland, often near the coast. Native to the eastern mainland it has aromatic leaves with undulating margins and

is spread by birds eating its yellow berries with sticky red seeds. It may be valued for screening and shelter, but is a rampant environmental weed that grows up through shade to smother native vegetation it invades.

If you have sweet pittosporum on your land control spreading plants, establish non-invasive alternatives for the garden and in the meantime remove fruit before the birds do.

Seedlings can be hand pulled or dug quite easily. Large plants can be treated with cut-and-paint or drill/frill herbicide application. It is intolerant to fire.

## Break O'Day Drought Weed Grants

Council is offering grants to Break O'Day farmers to tackle weed problems made worse by the 2019 drought. The funding has been provided through the Tasmanian Weed Action Fund to reduce the impact on agricultural production of weeds advantaged by drought conditions in five municipalities in the east and south.

Council's Drought Weeds Project also has a Break O'Day Drought Weeds Officer to support landholders in 2020/21, helping them plan control strategies for their weed problems and projects for funding applications. Drought Weed Grants can be used

to fund preventative activities, such as biosecurity, weed planning and education or training.

The initial applications round closes on 27 September. More details and Guidelines and Application Form for the Drought Weed Grants can be found on Council's Our Environment > Weed Management webpage. The Drought Weeds Officer, Peter Heading, can be contacted (Thursdays preferably) on 0400 737 253, or contact Council's NRM Facilitator, Polly Buchhorn.

## Fostering hope

There's no doubt that it's been a challenging six months. The global pandemic has added another layer of stress to everyone's already full load. Prolonged stress can have significant negative effects on our wellbeing, from sleep loss to lack of motivation; poor lifestyle choices to snapping at loved ones. Here are three simple ideas to move from stress to hope:

1. Remember feeling anxious and stressed is normal. Be kind to yourself first and foremost.
2. Find something to look forward to. A visit to a friend or a bush walk on the weekend. It's the little things that can shift our focus and rebuild hope.
3. Reach out. If you need help or support, connect with friends, family or professionals.

Lifeline is 131114

Mens line 1300 789 978

Beyondblue 1300224 636