

## From General Manager - John Brown

Our local Community Bank needs more support so they can in turn support our community.

Recent changes to banking services in our area have highlighted how important it is to support the services we have so I wanted to tell you all the big differences and benefits the Bendigo Community Bank offers our community over the Big Four.

During a recent discussion with the Chairperson of our local St Helens/ St Marys Bendigo Community Bank, Andrew MacGregor, he highlighted the fact that the Bendigo Community Bank actually has a local Bank Manager and Lending Manager who are 'real' people here in our community and whom you can actually meet face-to-face.

This face to face contact made me joke that the local Community Bank must be a 'dinosaur' in the banking industry because the other banks prefer to do everything electronically and the closest you might get is a phone call.

We also talked about the impact of community perceptions on the competitiveness of interest rates. Andrew said he had a friend comment that the local Community Bank was not competitive with Lending interest rates. Andrew had great delight in setting the record straight and detailing how the local Community Bank was actually cheaper than those offered by the 'Big Four Banks'. So what else might stop people from going to the local Community Bank? I remembered my time in the Bank, yes I worked for Westpac some decades ago, and there were some customers who had this perception that by banking at the local Branch everyone would know your business. Even back then this wasn't the case and thorough security systems and privacy protection makes it even more so now. What we shouldn't overlook too is how the Local Community Bank puts a lot of money back into the community in many ways, including community grants and employing 'real' people you can go and talk to.

## Governor visits Break O'Day



On Tuesday and Wednesday 10 and 11 August, the 29th Governor, Her Excellency, the Honorable Barbara Baker Governor of Tasmania was welcomed to her new role by the Break O'Day Community.

The first official visit since taking over the position from Kate Warner, Her Excellency and husband Professor Chalmers had a full itinerary while in our municipality that included visiting:

- The Flagstaff Trailhead
- Beauty Bay and walking along the Georges Bay Multi-User track back to the wharf
- Lease 65 Oysters
- Medea Park Residential Care Home
- St Helens Neighbourhood House and the Free 2 Be Girls and Youth Collective North East Coast Tasmania (YCNECT) program
- St Helens History Room
- Raida for a Civic Reception
- St Marys Community Space
- Mathinna Community where Her Excellency officially handed over Barbara Mellor's beautiful

quilt "Mathinna" to the St Helens History Room.

- Old Tasmanian Hotel Fingal
- Mayor Mick Tucker said it was an honour to be the first municipality visited by the new Governor.

"I think the bar has certainly been set at a high level for all other municipal visits," Mayor Tucker said with a grin.

"There is so much to see and do in the area and while Her Excellency got to see some of the highlights, we do hope she returns so she can really get to know our little slice of paradise."

A highlight of the visit was the handing over of Barbara Mellor's quilt to the History Room. Her Excellency spoke about the sad story of Mathinna, an aboriginal girl adopted by Sir and Lady Franklin around 1840. When the Franklins returned to England in 1843, they left Mathinna behind and her story is one of heartbreak.

Ms Mellor's quilt is based on the famous Thomas Bock painting of Mathinna but is a work of art in its own right.



## East Coast Visitor Sites get a Makeover

Next time you are traveling to the North East Coast of Tasmania make sure you stop and check out the updated information sites, you might learn something new.

Affectionately referred to as 'Tourism Mushrooms', Break O'Day Council has updated three visitor information sites including; Fingal outside the public toilets, St Marys, opposite the St Marys pub and Scamander, at the Scamander River Mouth.

The three sites now feature more relevant, up-to-date information as well as some great images of the picturesque Break O'Day area.

Each site has five panels that feature information on;

- Local history of the area
- What services you can find in the township
- A local street map

- Things to see and do in the township as well as the region
- A map of the north east of Tasmania
- QR codes that link to a map showing where and when you can take your dog on and off lead, more tourism information as well as Council information.

The Scamander site, due to its location near a threatened shore bird nesting area, also features information and pictures of these vulnerable shore birds so that visitors can do their bit to protect and admire them.

"We want to make it as easy as possible for people to explore our beautiful region," Mayor Mick Tucker said.

"The information sites are now a lot more informative and also help point people to further information if they require it.



## Binalong Bay Foreshore footpath

During September Council will start the construction of a foreshore path at Binalong Bay.

Under the Break O'Day Interim Planning Scheme 2013 – Version 17 footpaths and cycle ways are exempt from requiring a permit under the Planning Scheme. However, the proposed route has undergone both a Flora and Fauna and Aboriginal Heritage Assessment and has obtained approvals to undertake the works. The Council team has worked within these guidelines to ensure that the natural environment is protected

while still being able to provide a safe, off road access for pedestrians. The new path will also provide an opportunity for weed management activities in the area. Works are anticipated to start in mid-September, weather dependent. You will be able to follow the progress of this project and find more information on the route on our website under Current Works. This project was made possible with funding provided by the Australian Government via the Local Roads & Community Infrastructure Program – Round 1.

## Bike Rack Installation

Have you noticed that there are a few more bike racks around the St Helens area now?

Council applied for and received a \$7500 grant from the Tourism and Hospitality Unit to install bike racks in strategic locations around the township.

Before deciding on locations we contacted businesses in the area via our Business email database and asked them to prioritise locations and make suggestions. This led to the bike racks being installed at Beauty Bay, the Lions Park and the wharf area.

If you would like to be added to our Business email database please email [Jayne.richardson@bodc.tas.gov.au](mailto:Jayne.richardson@bodc.tas.gov.au)

## Pedal Heads Winter Series MTB Races

This month the local MTB Club, the Pedal Heads, have been running a Winter Race Series of events at the Flagstaff Trailhead. There will be four races in total which will see riders tackling a different trail each event. The first event was held on 8 August, the second was 22 August, with the final two scheduled for 5 and 19 September.

The 8 August event saw 41 competitors take part competing in a range of categories from under 8 to Elite. The 22 August event saw this number increase to 63 entries that brought competitors from Launceston, Hobart and the North West.

Council staff who attended or volunteered at the event commented how great it was to see the Flagstaff Trailhead activated and brimming with riders and spectators. Council would like to thank the Pedal Heads on organising such a great event.



## Wellbeing Project and Festival Update

The Break O'Day Community Wellbeing Project is well underway. This year's group in the wellbeing training are creating wellbeing projects across our community. You may have come across their activities already. They are eager to share the good things they are learning about supporting wellbeing with as many people as possible. On Saturday 9 October a Festival of Wellbeing at the Bendigo Bank Stadium in St Helens will share wellbeing tips and give you a chance to learn and

try new things that can support your wellbeing. There will be something for everyone and free transport from Fingal. This event is being created by community members and anyone can get involved. Expressions of Interest are open now until 12 September for ideas and contributions to make the day a local celebration of wellbeing. Find out more and register your interest here <https://www.communitiesofwellbeingbreakoday.info>, and follow the links



**Save the Date**  
**Saturday 9 October**  
**10am-4pm**



**SMALL DAMS**

**MOST DAMS REQUIRE A DAM PERMIT**

If you have enquiries around building dams please refer them to 1300 368 550 or [water.enquiries@dpipwe.tas.gov.au](mailto:water.enquiries@dpipwe.tas.gov.au)

## Digital Ready – Coaching Workshops On The East Coast

In conjunction with ECTT (East Coast Tasmania Tourism), the Digital Ready team will provide face-to-face training to help you get the best out of your digital tools, whether it is compelling social media feeds, responsive websites or amazing content that makes people want to hit the booking button.

You will need to have a registered Tasmanian business with an ABN. These one on one and confidential coaching sessions are tailor-made to your needs and are free of charge.

There are two 1.5-hour sessions available for each participant, available at three locations on the East Coast.

- Session 1 will get you started on your digital coaching journey
- Session 2, your coach will return a month later to see how you have progressed and show you some new tricks.

Bookings will need to be finalised two working days before each session.

If you cannot make the booking times available, there are online coaching sessions available.

To book or if you have any questions, please contact Alex, Industry Development Coordinator with ECTT on 0406 199 045.

### St Helens:

Location: Panorama St. Helens, 1 Quail St, St Helens

13 October, 10am, 12:00pm or 2:30pm

14 October, 10am, 12:00pm or 2:30pm

**St Helens Market**

**AGM Saturday 18**

**September 2021 at**

**1.30 at Portland Hall**



## Council Works Updates

Council crews were kept busy for several days dealing with storm damage from the destructive winds that lashed the area on Sunday the 15/8/21

- O'Connors Beach pathway works have been started.
- Beaumaris pathway upgrade - civil works complete, sealing to be undertaken when the weather warms up later in the year.
- Binalong Bay Footpath – Approvals now received with works scheduled to start in mid - September.
- Garden bed in Cecilia/Quail Street – Will be replanted in the coming weeks ready for Spring.
- Ansons Bay Rd- Maintenance almost completed then the focus will turn to re-sheeting later in September “weather dependent”
- Coffey Court – footpath replacement completed.
- Treloggen Drive – Kerb and Channel works complete with minor sealing to be done later in the year.
- Scamander Footpath, Winifred Drive to Winifred Curtis Reserve – a letter to adjoining property owners will go out next week with works scheduled to start in mid September.
- Terrys Hill Bridge Replacement – Now completed.

Pictured Below: The Council employee Gerryd Bogie from Fingal.



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

## Weed of the month Bridal Creeper



Bridal creeper (*Asparagus asparagoides*) is an aggressive scrambling plant with fern like foliage that can climb 3m and smother the vegetation it grows over. Bridal creeper grows through the cooler months and often from under other vegetation. A perennial crown of tough roots and tubers helps it tolerate drought and can become large. Annual growth of shoots with green leaf like ‘cladodes’ in the cooler months is followed by red pea sized berries in spring, which birds spread. Foliage dies back over summer. Look for it along fences, under trees

and shrubs, and in carelessly dumped garden waste.

Bridal creeper occurs in and around several towns in the municipality, typically along the coast in yards and moist coastal and gully bushlands. Numbers have been small in the past but the weed continues to be found and may be increasing. It is a Declared Weed in Tasmania.

Treatment can include digging out smaller plants and seedlings, ensuring all the underground rhizomes and tubers are removed. Handle and dispose of fruit/seeds and rhizomes very carefully. Seed viability declines after 3 years in the soil. Well-timed spot spraying with a registered herbicide is effective, but take care to avoid non-target vegetation.

Bridal Creeper will begin flowering around August, so now is the time to act. Further information on identification and treatment methods can be found on DPIPWE's weed pages: [dpiipwe.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/weeds](http://dpiipwe.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/weeds)

## Irapuna Big Beach Walk

The Irapuna Community Weekend of big beach walks made a return on 13 to 15 August with 50 walkers covering 30km of the spectacular Irapuna / Bay of Fires coast.

Volunteer walkers hunted down over 25,000 sea spurge plants and removed over 300 pieces of plastic, aluminium, glass and other marine debris from the beaches.

Pleasingly, the amount of marine debris was low compared to previous years.

While the sea spurge had increased after the event was cancelled last year, the volunteers removed 15,000 plants and PWS and NRM North are following up the remaining 10,000 in time for shorebird breeding season.

The annual event is a collaboration between Wildcare Friends of Irapuna Coast, PWS, Tas. Bay of Fires Walk, Adrift Lab, NRM North, Break O'Day Council, Aboriginal Land Council Tas. and Friends of Eddystone Lighthouse.

