

Next Council Meetings:
19 September and 17 October at 10am in the Council Chambers, St Helens

From the General Manager - John Brown

About 12 months ago we all had to spend time filling paperwork for the Federal Government where they asked us all sorts of questions – yes, I am talking about the 2021 Census.

The ABS have started releasing data from the Census. For us at the Council this is really important information. Whilst we have a gut feel for what is going on, having the figures from the Census makes it more certain and as suspected the figures are a lot different to what they were in 2016. Back then our population was 6,104 and had been shrinking since 2011 and with the projection that it would continue declining.

The 2021 Census said our population has actually grown to 6,770 or 11%. This mightn't seem much but it was nearly as much as the population of St Marys in 2016 (682). Interestingly, St Marys population is now 738 (+8.2%); Scamander is now 803 (2016 was 638, +25.9%); St Helens (excl Akaroa/Stieglitz) is now 2,206 (2016 was 2,070 +6.6%). Information is still coming out from the ABS so we haven't got a full picture yet.

We have all heard stories about the struggles people are having finding somewhere to rent or live. Quite often the talk is about the impact of AirBNBs and there is no doubt this plays a part. When we look at population growth we see growth in the number of families according to the ABS (+253) and All Private Dwelling (+319). This needs to be considered in the context of the number of new dwellings approved (357) and who received their Occupancy Certificate (148) during the same period of time. Clearly we need more housing and this is something Council is working on with the State Government.

In the meantime, we have lots of new faces in town and I see them pop-up in various community groups doing their bit for the community they now call home.

Shore bird breeding season starting



Pictured above: The new signage and a pied oystercatcher chick sheltering - Photo credit Eric Woehler.

The start of September means the start of shore bird breeding and nesting. It also means it is time for us all to think about what we can do to help these vulnerable and threatened shore birds to have a successful breeding season.

Birds that specifically migrate to our shores every year to breed include: Hooded Plovers, Red Capped Plovers, Little and Fairy Terns and Pied Oystercatchers. Tasmania has significant percentages of the global population of Pied Oyster Catchers and Hooded Plovers. Sadly, the numbers of these shorebirds are decreasing and our beaches are critical refuges for these threatened birds.

Next time you head to the beach you will notice some new signage that highlights the bird breeding season as well as reinforcing what Dog Management Zone you are in, ie – On-Lead, Off Lead or No Dogs at all.

Research has identified the major cause of shore bird breeding decline is human disturbance and there are some really easy things you can do to

make sure you are giving shore birds the best chance of survival.

1. Walk on the wet sand – birds generally nest on dry sand and on the ground so walking on the wet sand means you are avoiding nesting sites.

2. Obey the Dog Zones – the dog zones have been developed to provide a balance between us and the environment – this includes bird breeding season and you may notice that as of 1 September some zones will change from Dogs On-Lead to No Dogs at all.

3. Keep vehicles off beaches - In Break O'Day recreational vehicles are not permitted on beaches except for the designated off-road area at Peron Dunes. For more information on this and other locations go to www.parks.tas.gov.au.

Parks and Council staff patrol beaches and issue fines to those who do not obey the signage.

The Bird Breeding season closes in April.

HAVE YOUR SAY

Do you have a minute to share your thoughts with us?

Community Engagement Updates

St Helens Sports complex Draft Concept Plan

At the August Council Meeting, Council formally received the Draft St Helens Sports Complex Concept Plan. We have now finished collating all your input and developed a report.

A copy of the report as well as a copy of the feedback received can be found on our website under Community Engagement.

Volunteer Strategy

The working committee has now developed a volunteering strategy. Before we release this to the community it will need to be formally adopted by Council at the September Council Meeting. We will then organise a launch of the Strategy where we can also celebrate our volunteers – keep an eye out on social media and the next newsletter for more information.

Recreational Trails

Submissions for the Recreational Trails Strategy closed on Wednesday 24 August. We are now collating this feedback and we will use this information to make recommendations to change or not change the strategy.

Thank you to everyone who has provided us with input and feedback on these projects.

Unearthing the voices of Tasmanian Youth

Are you a young person aged 18-25 years and living in Tasmania? The Youth Network of Tasmania (YNOT) want to hear from you! YNOT are unearthing Tasmanian Youth Stories and want to have a conversation with local youth about what it is like being a young person living in Tasmania - both the good and the bad. Your unique experiences are essential to create

Marine Facilities Strategy

We are currently working through all your feedback, there were some amazing ideas and suggestions in your responses. We will present this information back to you in a report which we will make available on our website. We will also email a copy of the report to all those that participated in, or showed interest in the project. This information will then be used to develop the strategy

Business Survey

Feedback from this survey is now being collated. Once completed we will report the findings back to you via our website – we will also send a copy of the report to our Business email database.

If you would like to join our Business Database please email admin@bodc.tas.gov.au and put Business Database in the subject line.

All information on these projects including related documents and links can be found on our website under My Community/Community Engagement

an authentic Tasmanian Youth Story. Together, we will help decision-makers better understand what young people 18-25 years want from Tasmania - making it a fairer and finer place for everyone. Participants will be receive a \$100 e-gift voucher in recognition of your time and contributions. To find out more or register go to: www.ynot.org.au/

IN BRIEF

Rates Reminder

A reminder that the first rates instalment or payment is due by 6 September 2022 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.

Road Safety Changes

The Road Safety Advisory Council is reviewing the motorcyclist graduated licensing system (GLS) to ensure that new riders are as safe as possible. Motorcyclists are significantly overrepresented in the fatalities and serious injuries on our roads. In 2021, motorcyclists accounted for approximately one third of serious casualties despite only representing five per cent of the registered vehicles in Tasmania.

Learner and provisional riders are most at risk of being involved in a crash because they are inexperienced and still developing their skills.

To learn more and have your say, visit www.rsac.tas.gov.au

WHERE CAN I RECYCLE...

Soft Plastics

Did you know that the Bay of Fires IGA is now collecting soft plastics?

Located at the front of the store are large bins for you to put your clean soft plastic bags in. Bags must be clean or they will not be able to be accepted.

Once the bin is full the plastic is baled and sent to Launceston for processing.

DID YOU KNOW – it is free to take your recycling to any of our Waste Transfer Stations and if you sort and compact your waste before you go you will save money and time.

For a full list of what can and can't be accepted at each of our WTS go to our website, My Property/Waste.

Irapuna Beach -Thank you all round

A big thank you to all those who participated in 2022's Irapuna Community Weekend of beach walks. With an extra walk this year the event was held over two weekends in August and saw 71 people cover more than 37km of coastline where they collected marine debris and mapped and removed sea spurge, an invasive beach weed.

Over 1,500 items of mostly plastic and foam marine debris were removed and 27,500 sea spurge were pulled out – a huge achievement helping keep this precious coastline sea spurge and rubbish free.

The walks stretched from Stumpys

Bay in Wukalina/Mt William National Park to The Gardens over four days. Unfortunately severe weather on Sunday 14th meant the Abbotsbury Beach walk had to be cancelled.

Since 2014 the event has been made possible by community volunteers and its supporting partners, including Break O'Day Council. Thank you to: Wildcare Friends of Irapuna Coast, Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service, NRM North, Tasmanian Walking Company, Adrift Lab, the Aboriginal Land Council Tasmania, the Tjaltjraak Community from WA, Calows Buses, Friends of Eddystone Point Lighthouse and Ansons Bay Progress and Planning Association.

Pictured below: Volunteers and partners hard at work clearing sea spurge.



WHAT'S ON

Sequenza: Amour Courtois - Baroque love ballads

3 September

Held at the Portland Hall, St Helens, this classical Tasmanian touring program features a program of lush courtly love ballads from the French, English and Italian Baroque traditions. For more information and tickets go to www.sequenza.com.au

BODEC Careers Expo

8 September

Held at the Bendigo Bank Community Stadium this event brings together a range of activities for employees and employers including: TED Talks from local entrepreneurs, pop-up info shops from apprenticeship and traineeship providers such as MEGT and MAS National as well as the Van Diemen Project and Bookkeeping and Web Design.

Great Eastern Wine Weekend

9-18 September

Spanning the entire East Coast this event features over 60 events over 10 days including several in our local area. See East Coast Tourism's Facebook page or website for more information.

Break O'Day Festival of Wellbeing

6 October

Held at the Bendigo Bank Community Stadium from 11- 4. Come along and try something new, enjoy demonstrations and find out more about support and activities in our community. A day to connect and share and celebrate all the ways we can care for our own wellbeing and for each other.

LOCAL MARKETS

St Helens - Every Saturday

The Markets alternate between setting up their stalls at the Portland Hall or in the Visitor Information Centre Carpark.

St Marys - First Saturday of the month

Held at the St Marys Hall.

Break O'Day Employment Connect (BODEC) Annual Careers Expo

On Thursday 8 September – Break O'Day Employment Connect (BODEC) will host their second, annual Jobs and Education Fair.

A free event held at the Bendigo Bank Community Stadium between 10am – 2pm everyone is welcome and you will find something for everyone whether you are an employer or someone looking for work, to upskill or a new career.

On the day there will be lots of activities, from drone flying, to changing tyres on

a car as well as building activities and TED Talks from local entrepreneurs. You will have the opportunity to meet apprenticeship and traineeship providers such as MEGT and MAS National to discuss options for your future. The Van Diemen Project and our local Bookkeeping and Web Design Consultant – Catelyne Carpenter will also be available to provide support to start-up businesses.

Come along to the Expo and meet the BODEC team and register with us to

find out about jobs that are coming up. Area Connect will provide FREE transport to the event on the day from Fingal Valley and St Marys. Please contact Stephen on 0472 866 774 to discuss arrangements.

For more information – please contact the BODEC team on 0417 143 133 or admin@bodec.com.au.

This event is proudly funded and supported by Jobs Tasmania and the Fingal Valley Neighbourhood House, Break O'Day Council and BODEC.

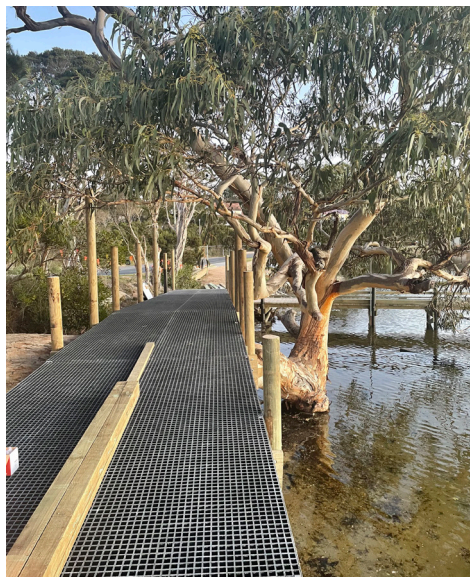
Council Works Reports

GENERAL MAINTENANCE:

- All townships including; mowing, garden/tree maintenance and weeding where required
- Scheduled Maintenance Grading: Scamander Area culvert and drain clearing.
- The following areas have just been graded and resheeted: Mathinna Plains Rd, Anson Bay Rd and St Helens area.

PROJECT UPDATES:

- New pathway construction at Parkside is almost complete – Council is waiting on materials to complete the boardwalk piece of the track. It is scheduled for opening Tuesday 30 August.
- Erosion barrier reinstatement (Treloggens Track) – Works in progress. Expected completion mid September.
- Medea and Quail Street mini-roundabout – Sealing has been completed. Please note that this intersection remains a cross intersection until the round-about is built and the speed limit is 40km. Please obey give-way signs.



Pictured above; Track works near Parkside.

Weed Management

Scamander WTS: Caper spurge, thistles, Spanish heath, various

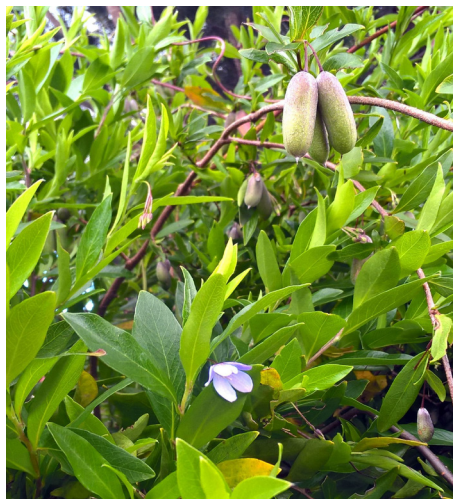
Eagle Street, St Helens: Spanish heath

Priory Road: Spanish heath, watsonia

Reids Road: Spanish heath

St Helens: English Ivy

Environmental Weeds



'Environmental weeds' is a term used to describe introduced invasive plants that outcompete native plants and impact native habitats and biodiversity. One such weed is bluebell creeper (*Billardiera heterophylla*), a West Australian native often planted in gardens but that escapes easily.

Bluebell creeper is a climber with twisting and tangled stems, narrow shiny leaves, white or blue flowers followed by hanging berry-like fruits that are spread by birds.

While they may look lovely in the garden they do spread into our native bushlands. Now is a good time to remove bluebell creeper before the problem spreads further. Small plants can be pulled out and larger plants can be dug or cut and painted with herbicide. Be on the lookout for escapees in your neighbourhood.

Our Tasmanian climbing blueberry (*Billardiera longiflora*) with shiny blue fruits might be a good alternative, or something else that will stay in your garden. In the meantime, if you want to keep your bluebell creeper at home please remove all fruit as the flowers finish.



FESTIVAL of WELLBEING

THURSDAY 6 OCTOBER
11am - 4pm

Workshops
Come 'n' Try
Displays
Information
Goodie Bags
Demonstrations
and more...

FREE ENTRY

Free bus from Fingal

Bendigo Bank Community Stadium
Tully Street St Helens

Awareness ~ uncover people, places and support in our community

Belonging ~ join in, have fun, try something new

Connection ~ connect and share with others



www.communitiesofwellbeingbreakoday.info/festival-of-wellbeing



www.facebook.com/FestivalOfWellbeingBreakODay

