

## From the General Manager - John Brown

The term in office of the current Council is drawing to a close as we enter the period to elect a new Council for the next four years. Over the next few months we will be operating under the policy provisions which cover what is known as the Caretaker Period and during this time the focus is on keeping things ticking along with no policy or major contract decisions being made by the Council. It is a bit of a balancing act from an operational perspective this time as we have a few Tenders open which will need to be dealt with as a matter of priority when we are able to. Looking at what has been achieved in the last four years, we have used this time to further strengthen the financial foundations of the Council enabling us to respond to any financial headwinds we encounter in the future. We are in a strong operating position with modest surpluses being achieved annually, debt has been paid down and we have good Cash Reserves which through wise investment provide a steady income stream to ease the pressure on Rates and Charges as well as Government Grants. This has come about through the financial stewardship of the current Council making the right decisions for the long term and not just responding to a short term opportunity.

## Nominations are open

Take a seat at the table  
and make a difference  
in your community



**Nominations to stand for Council are open from 7–21 September 2026.**

**All nomination details and requirements are available from the Tasmanian Electoral Commission**  
[www.tec.tas.gov.au/local-government](http://www.tec.tas.gov.au/local-government)

## Larapuna/Bay of Fires Community Weekend



Photo: Volunteers helping keep our coastline sea spurge free.

This year's Larapuna / Bay of Fires Community Weekend saw over 100 people walk 50 kilometres of coastline from Wukalina / Mt William National Park to The Gardens. The event runs over four days and two weekends, with five all-day beach walks and a gathering at Eddystone Point lighthouse. Participants worked to control sea spurge, an invasive beach weed, and remove marine debris including bottles, fishing litter and plastic fragments.

This year nearly 40,000 sea spurge plants were weeded out and 37kg of marine debris removed. Both figures are lower than last year, a sign volunteer efforts are helping keep the coast free of sea spurge and marine pollution. Sea spurge has toxic white sap and has overrun beaches from Arthur River to the Furneaux Islands, threatening east coast beaches and habitat of birds such as the hooded plover.

Council is a longstanding supporter of the event, which is organised by Wildcare Tasmania's Friends of Larapuna Coast group, with support from the Parks and Wildlife Service, Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania, Tasmanian Walking Company, Council and others. Pakana Rangers from the Tasmanian

Aboriginal Centre also joined this year. Bus shuttles were funded by the 2026 Wildcare Tasmanian Nature Conservation Fund.

The Eddystone Point gathering on 22 August included 'Snappy Talks'. Pakana Rangers shared their work in the northeast, including efforts to eradicate cats from lungtalanana / Clarke Island and Sea Country planning. People also heard about marine debris monitoring by Tangaroa Blue, plastics and Tasmanian insects.

Keeping sea spurge off beaches is a constant task as seeds travel by sea to east coast shores. While much of the coast around Eddystone Point now requires patrolling for new plants, infestations remain. Infestations were also recently found at Scamander and Four Mile Creek, with Northeast Bioregional Network organising working bees.

The potential impact of bird flu on species such as hooded plovers, fairy terns and oyster catchers makes keeping their east coast habitat sea spurge free even more important. You can help by learning to identify and safely remove sea spurge and finding plants before they seed and spread.



You may have heard a few myths about Council over the years .

That's why we're launching Myth Busters: Council Edition, a new series aimed at explaining some of the common misconceptions about Council and sharing the facts behind how things work.

Over the coming editions, we'll look at topics including rates, Council services, grant funding, decision-making, community consultation and who is responsible for what across our region. Myth Busters: Council Edition is about making Council a little easier to understand.

## Prepare Early for the Bushfire Season

Residents across Break O'Day are encouraged to prepare early for the coming bushfire season.

The latest seasonal outlook from the Australian and New Zealand Council for Fire and Emergency Services indicates an above-average bushfire risk for north-east and eastern Tasmania, driven by below-average rainfall and dry conditions. The Tasmania Fire Service has also warned that the season may begin earlier than usual in parts of the state.

Following significant fires on the East Coast last summer, including at Stieglitz, now is the time to protect your family, property and pets.

Prepare your property:

- Mow grass and remove excess vegetation.
- Clear leaves, twigs and debris from gutters and buildings.
- Trim overhanging branches and keep access tracks clear.
- Check that water supplies, pumps

### "MY RATES PAY FOR YOUR WAGES!"

Rates make up about 68% of Council's income, with the rest coming from grants and service fees.

So rates don't directly pay staff wages, they help fund the services and facilities our community uses every day, including roads, waste collection, parks and community services. It's also important to remember that many Council staff live locally and are ratepayers too.

Your rates help support the whole community.

For more information, visit [www.bodc.tas.gov.au/property/rates/](http://www.bodc.tas.gov.au/property/rates/)

and hoses are working.

- Maintain defensible space around your home.

Make a Bushfire Survival Plan: Talk with your household about what you will do if fire threatens. Decide when you will leave, where you will go and how you will care for pets and livestock.

Know the warnings:

- Advice: A fire has started, but there is no immediate danger.
- Watch and Act: Conditions are changing—take action now.
- Emergency Warning: You are in danger—act immediately.

Visit TasALERT and the Tasmania Fire Service websites for current warnings, Community Protection Plans and preparedness advice. TasALERT's Risk Ready tool can also help you understand your risk and identify practical actions.

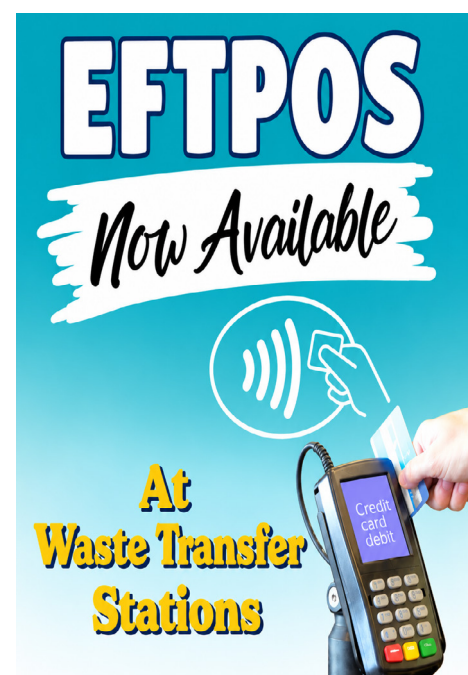
Bushfires can occur anywhere. Preparing early can make a significant difference.

## IN BRIEF

### FIRE ABATEMENT - PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

Preparing for bushfire season is also a timely reminder to ensure properties meet fire abatement requirements.

Ongoing property maintenance throughout the year helps reduce fire risk, improves neighbourhood amenity and assists in protecting neighbouring properties and the wider community. Council encourages residents to act early and maintain their properties throughout the fire season.



**At  
Waste Transfer  
Stations**

EFTPOS facilities are available at the following waste transfer stations:  
**St Helens, Scamander  
St Marys, Fingal**

### CAT DE-SEXING AND MICROCHIP SUBSIDY OFFER NOW CLOSED

We are pleased to have helped another 19 Break O'Day cats and their owners, helpiWng to keep our cats safer while reducing the number of unwanted litters and preventing more cats from becoming stray or feral.

### CARERS TASMANIA SURVEY

Carers Tasmania's annual survey helps us track changes for carers in 2026, including access to services and the availability of support, and builds a clearer picture of the carer experience across Tasmania's regions.

Access the survey here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GQRCB29>

# WHAT HELPS YOU LIVE WELL IN Break O'Day?

*Your voice shapes a stronger community.*

**Your experiences** shape our future.

Whether you've just arrived, lived here for years, or moved away, we want to hear from you.

**Tell us** what Break O'Day is a great place to live, what could be better, and what helps people choose to come, stay or return.

Scan the QR code to take our survey



It only takes a few minutes, but **your** input can make a big difference.



## Scamander River Mouth Works Completed



Photo: Rock wall being repaired at the River Mouth

Works to repair the degraded rock wall in front of Scamander River mouth park and stabilise an erosion bank next to Dune Street were recently completed. More than 200 tonnes of

rock and 200m of geotextile were used in the engineered designs to control shoreline erosion threatening Dune Street and the park.

Water level monitoring is also being installed to improve management of a closed barway, reduce the risk of inundation and warn of floods.

These works are part of the grant funded Coastal Hazards and Flood Risk Adaptation Pathways Project. The Pathways Adaptation Plan identified them as actions to reduce immediate risks for people and assets at the River mouth. The Plan identifies further mitigation priorities for short-term risks and, with climate change, significant future challenges managing the hazards, including difficult trade-offs between costs and benefits.

More information on the project and coastal hazards are on our website.



**FESTIVAL OF WELLBEING**

A free, inclusive community event celebrating the little things in life.

**FREE EVENT**

**WEDNESDAY 7 OCTOBER 2026**

**10AM – 2PM**

**BENDIGO BANK COMMUNITY STADIUM ST HELENS**

**ALL WELCOME!**

facebook.com/FestivalOfWellbeingBreakODay

WORKSHOPS & COME 'N' TRY ACTIVITIES

DISPLAYS & DEMONSTRATIONS

MARKET STALLS & FOOD

LIVE MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT

& MORE!

Break O'Day COUNCIL

WELLBEING PROJECT

Mental Health COUNCIL OF TASMANIA

MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

SUPPORTED BY Tasmanian Government

## WHAT'S ON

### Break O'Day Chamber of Commerce - Monthly Calendar

The Break O'Day Chamber of Commerce has created a monthly calendar of local events and activities to help showcase what's happening across our region. The Chamber is encouraging local businesses, community groups, and organisations to print and display the calendar to help spread the word. If you'd like to receive future editions, please email the Chamber at [sthelenscoc@gmail.com](mailto:sthelenscoc@gmail.com)

### With One Voice Break O'Day Choir Every Tuesday

Doors open at 5pm with buses running from St Helens and Fingal Valley to the Falmouth Community Centre. Come along, enjoy singing in a group, connecting with community and sharing a delicious supper. Contact Liz 0439 001 533 for more information.

### R U OK? Community Events - 16 September 2026

St Helens Community Breakfast, 8.00am–9.30am, Portland Memorial Hall. St Marys: BBQ Lunch, 12.30pm–2.00pm, St Marys Town Hall. Everyone welcome. Drop in for a bite to eat, a chat and free R U OK? resources. More information: [www.ruok.org.au](http://www.ruok.org.au)

### Questacon Bytewise Exhibition - 4-18 September 2026

Get ready to explore the fascinating world of mathematics and computer science through hands-on challenges and interactive exhibits. From cracking codes and counting in binary to discovering how computers solve problems, Bytewise makes big ideas fun, engaging and accessible for all ages. FREE entry at St Helens Library.

### Mental Health Comedy Roadshow- 10 October 2026

Featuring an all star line up of the state's funniest acts speaking their minds about mental health. Portland Memorial Hall at 7.00pm. More information and to register for FREE tickets visit [www.clubhousecomedy.com.au](http://www.clubhousecomedy.com.au)

### Back to St Marys Weekend - 31 October 2026

Reunite, reflect, reminisce, supported by Break O'Day Regional Arts, St Marys District School Association and Fingal Valley Neighbourhood House. Email [backtostmarys2026@gmail.com](mailto:backtostmarys2026@gmail.com) for more information.

### Annual Beach Clean Up - October 2026

CJR Foundation and Tangaroa Blue, with the support of the Council, will be hosting a community beach clean up at Binalong Bay in October. This will be an annual event so keep a look out for date and time on Council's Facebook to come along and be inspired.

### 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

- Road grading maintenance in the Pyengana area
- Mathinna Plains Road grading underway
- Mulching of town gardens in St Helens and St Marys
- Tree pruning activities in various towns where required
- General town maintenance and mowing all towns

### Join Australia's final Garage Sale Trail

After 16 years of turning unwanted items into treasure, Australia's Garage Sale Trail is holding its final event in 2026.

Break O'Day residents can get involved over two weekends — **7–8 and 14–15 November** — by hosting a sale or hunting for bargains.

Since launching in 2010, Garage Sale Trail has grown into a national movement, with 134,000 garage sales, four million participants and 7.2 million items saved from landfill.

It's a great opportunity to clear out items, make extra cash and keep useful things out of landfill.

Register your garage sale for **FREE!** Your sale will be listed on the interactive map, helping bargain hunters find you. Promotional materials are also provided.

Use the interactive map to find garage sales across Break O'Day.

Register your sale or find sales at [www.garagesaletrail.com.au](http://www.garagesaletrail.com.au)

### WEED MANAGEMENT

- **Scamander:** pampas, Spanish heath.
- **Ansons Bay:** Spanish heath.
- **St Marys:** Spanish heath.

### DOG STATISTICS

JULY 2026

Urban Patrols = 26  
Beach Patrols = 25  
Infringements = 1  
Unregistered Dog = 0  
Impounded Dogs = 1

## Weed of the Month - Dolichos pea

Dolichos pea (*Dipogon lignosus*) is a climbing environmental weed that can escape backyards and strangle bushland. Its white to purple flowers and vigorous growth make it an easy-care garden plant — until it gets out of hand.

Dolichos pea spreads through black seeds. Other climbers spread differently. Blue periwinkle (*Vinca major*) and Cape Marguerite daisy (*Dimorphotheca ecklonis*) can take root from stem pieces, while ivy groundsel (*Delairea odorata*) produces wind-blown seed. Birds spread English ivy seeds, which can also take root from stems.

Please keep your pet plants at home. Don't let them creep over the fence, produce seed or stray. If they spread into your yard, remove them.

Don't dump garden waste in bushland. Dispose of it responsibly — or better still, compost prunings safely at home and turn them into something useful.

Visit [www.NRE.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/weeds](http://www.NRE.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/weeds)



## Bird Flu Detected in Tasmania – What you Need to Know

Bird flu has now been detected in Tasmania. For the latest information and advice, visit <https://www.nre.tas.gov.au/BirdFlu>

Council is working with Biosecurity Tasmania and following State Government advice to help reduce the risk of the disease spreading, minimise the impacts and keep people safe and informed.

Bird flu primarily affects birds but can also infect other animals, including cats (dogs can spread it). The community can help by taking a few simple precautions:

- Avoid touching sick or dead birds or other wildlife.
- Record the location and, if safe, take a photo from a distance.

- Report suspected cases to the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888.

- Keep cats indoors, as cats are susceptible to bird flu.

- Keep dogs on leads, to stop them coming into contact with infected birds or material and spreading the virus.

- Human infection with H5 bird flu is rare.

- Chickens and other kept birds are susceptible, find out what you can do for them.

Council will continue to share advice from Biosecurity Tasmania, including news as the situation develops locally on our website and facebook page.

## Open your account in minutes on our app.

And link it to the community you care about.

Community Bank · St Helens · St Marys

**Bendigo Bank**  
The better big bank

T&Cs apply Bendigo & Adelaide Bank Limited ABN 11 068 049 178 AFSL / Australian Credit Licence 237879 107/261



## “Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does.”

- William James