

Next Council Meetings:
January 20 and February 17 at 10am

From General Manager - John Brown

Yet another year is drawing to a close as we enter the festive season and get ready to welcome in 2020. It is a time to reflect, to be thankful for what we have and supportive for those who struggle at this time of year. In what seems to be the norm, the year has once again flown by which seems to reflect the pace of life nowadays. We are now into the busy time of year and it is a time when we need to take extra care not just in our travels but also in what we are doing. Once again we have extremely high risk of fires due to the lack of any meaningful rain. We have already seen numerous fires in our area so far this year which is a sign of the situation, we need to be vigilant and to take care in what we do to protect our community.

Have a safe and enjoyable Xmas and New Year!



Mayor Tucker's Christmas Message

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and your family from all of us at Council.

What an amazing 12 months it has been! As a community we have certainly seen some big things happen, the biggest without a doubt though would have to be the opening of the St Helens Mountain Bike Trails!

The team at Council really should be commended on how much time, effort and care they put in to all elements of the trails. I would have to say that this project is one of the things I am most proud of as a mayor as it has really opened up so many doors for our business community and community members. We now have a very active MTB club, The Pedalheads, we have new businesses starting up, we have existing businesses expanding, we have people purchasing in the area to be close to the trails and more! But

what has meant the most to me is seeing all the local kids up on the trails having the time of their life!

This time of year is very busy and our usually relaxed townships become busy with holiday home owners and visitors. This is great for our business community but it also means that we all need to take a bit more care on the roads. There will also be more boats and people on the water so I would like to ask that we all look out for one another during this busy time. With fire season now upon us, I would also like to urge our community to make sure that they have done all they can to ensure they are ready for a fire; there is plenty of information on the Tasmanian Fire Service website.

Well that's about it for another year! Thank you for your ongoing support and thank you to the Council team for all their hard work.

Stay Safe this Summer

In summer the population of our area triples!

This means at least three times as many people on the roads, on the water, on the beaches, in the town etc.

So it is important that we all take extra care at this time with ourselves and each other this means;

Taking it slow and careful on the roads – everyone would prefer you arrive in one piece

Take it easy on the water - make sure your safety equipment is up to scratch and you are wearing a life jacket

Also, the east coast has been identified as a place of concern for this fire season so make sure you have your safety plan ready



An image of one of the Discovery Ranger undertaking some rock pool discovery activities.

Discovery Ranger - back to the East Coast

Council is partnering with the PWS Discovery Ranger program again this summer with more fun and interesting activities over the holiday season. Discovery Ranger Rachel will be roving Break O'Day, running activities and visiting St Helens Market regularly

from 27 December through to 29 January. Special days and activities will be announced before Christmas. Check for the details on the PWS Discovery Ranger webpage, Council events listings, social media and notices in shops.

Bio-products causing waste confusion

NO YOU CAN'T RECYCLE THEM

It is great that businesses in the area are now embracing BIODEGRADABLE packaging like the BioCup products pictured opposite. Unfortunately this has caused confusion around what bin these products go in. The answer is GENERAL WASTE. These products are made of a plant based material that breaks down in landfill. While true that these products can be composted, this is only commercial grade composting. They will take a long time to break down in household compost bins.

To make it easier for consumers and businesses, we have been giving flyers to businesses to display.

Biodegradable = General Waste

This business uses BioCup or biodegradable products

These products are designed to break down once they make it to landfill. They CANNOT be recycled.
Please dispose of them in your waste bin.



Thanks

For doing the right thing by supporting biodegradable packaging and sustainability focused businesses



from the mountains to the sea | www.bodc.tas.gov.au

IN BRIEF

Mathinna and Cornwall Playground Painting

Both the Mathinna and Cornwall Playgrounds will be getting a fresh paint in December and January. This of course means we will have to close the playgrounds temporarily.

The Mathinna Playground will be closed for painting from 16 – 20 December.

The Cornwall Playground will be closed for painting from 6 – 10 January.

Both works are weather dependent. We appreciate your cooperation while these works are being completed.

Temporary Road Closure - Reids Road, George River Bridge.

We will be temporarily closing the section of Reids Road at the George River Bridge for major works from 6am 18 December - 5pm 22 December.

There will NOT be a detour in place so we ask all traffic detour via Binalong Bay Road. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Binalong Bay Food Vans

Since the shop shut in 2004 Binalong Bay has basically not had the convenience of basic snack type food ie. sandwiches, wraps, pies etc. Members of the community have expressed their concerns that no snack food is available to people visiting the area. Council currently has a lease over the Binalong Bay Foreshore area and has recently had their lease agreement with Crown changed to allow the provision of a food van to set up. Anyone interested should email PropertyServices@parks.tas.gov.au and enquire as to how to obtain the necessary commercial permit to operate a food van.

Opening Lagoons - who's responsibility?

Around this time of year we get enquiries from the community wanting us to 'open' various lagoons in the area; this is not something Council can do.

The responsibility for opening Lagoons falls to the land managers, the Parks and Wildlife Service and they have their own triggers and policy to follow before opening a lagoon.

Council's Environmental Health Officer has just tested the water at Henderson Lagoon at Henderson's Lagoon at Falmouth, Beauty Bay, Wrinklers Lagoon, Grants Lagoon, Scamander River Mouth and Yarmouth Creek, all returned safe readings for swimming and recreational use. You can find these results on our website under Our Environment/Water Management.

Welcome to our GOLD Trail Ambassador

LJ HOOKER, St Helens

St Helens Mountain Bike Trails and Break O'Day Council are pleased to report that LJ Hooker has signed up as one of our GOLD Trail Ambassadors! Please join us in welcoming them to the St Helens MTB Ambassador Team! All funds that are raised through the Trails Ambassador program go straight to a fund specifically set up for trail maintenance and development.



Old St Helens Hospital site

Property owners Communities Tasmania (CT) held a Drop-in Session on 18 July to gather community ideas for the future use of the Old St Helens Hospital site. Council staff collated and submitted these ideas and forwarded them to Communities Tasmania for consideration. Both CT and Council agree that to move this project forward, there should be an external review which looks at the feasibility of community ideas. Council at their meeting on the 16 December, 2019 agreed to work with Communities Tasmania and examine how the green space at the front of the old hospital could be transferred to Council for community use.

Council Staff give back

Every second Friday, Council staff have a free dress day where they donate money to a local charity. This year we raised \$920 for a variety of local causes including: Woodley Family, St Helens & St Marys Sub Branch Inc, Mayor White Lion Bail Out 2019, Save Gracie fund, Dave Pearce Family, Day for Daniel and Anglicare.

What's On

St Helens Volunteer Fire Brigade Lolly Run 21 December

With special guest Santa, the trucks will be on the St Helens Foreshore at 4.30pm, Big 4 Caravan Park at 5.15pm, NRMA Waterfront Holiday Park at 5.45pm, 6.20pm at Hillcrest and 6.40pm at the Stieglitz Playground.

Fingal Valley Christmas Parade 22 December

Starting at 4pm at the Fire Brigade and finishing at Fingal Valley Neighbourhood House. There will be prizes for best costumes, jumping castle BBQ and more.

St Helens Christmas Parade 24 December

Children's raffle at 5pm, Prize wheel at 6pm and the parade at 7pm.

St Marys Christmas Parade 24 December

Christmas eve celebrations, Christmas activities and giveaways and a visit from Santa. Starting at 3pm, Christmas parade at 5pm and finishing at 6pm.

New Years Day St Marys Races 1 January

A great way to bring in the new year. Come along and enjoy the experience of harness racing with a history of 134 years of new years day racing celebrations at the St Marys Recreation Ground, from 12:00noon.

St Helens Shark Fishing Comp 4 January

If not entering, pop down in the afternoon to see the monsters of the deep weighed in at the gantry on the St Helens Wharf.

St Helens Athletics Club 2020 Carnival 18 January

Starting at 9.30am this event features cycling, woodchopping, running, the rotary hole in one as well as an after party. See their website for more details.

Wheels, Wine and Dine 2020 25 January

Come and enjoy live music, dancing, fine food, kids entertainment, helicopter flights and more on the St Helens Foreshore.

Australia Day Celebrations 26 January

Held at the Portland Hall, this annual event starts with the Australia Day Citizen awards at 12noon. This year this will be followed by Pink Floyd cover band Breathe and there will be food provided by Marine Rescue and beer by Little Rivers Brewing Co.

Break O'Day Community Triathlon 8 and 9 February

Saturday @ Scamander
9am Junior Trystar Triathlon race one 7-9 year olds and race two 10-12 year olds. 10am 5km. Fun Run followed by Craig Mottram speaking to participants about running tips
Sunday @ St.Helens Wharf area
9am. -12noon. Junior and Adult Enticer Triathlons and then the Sprint event- featuring the state's best.
SPECIAL GUEST Craig Mottram.

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.

Want to receive your newsletter via email?

Please email

jayne.richardson@bodc.tas.gov.au

Fire Season – Are you prepared?

The Tasmania Fire Service has advised the East Coast will be at significant risk this bushfire season so make sure you are prepared.

Have a bag ready to go that includes; torch, batteries, portable radio, medications and any important documentation.

Keep up to date: Keep an eye on social media sites like TasALerts, Tasmania Fire Service – we will also share their alerts to our Facebook page. In the case of an emergency our website

will also change to display the most relevant links to information. Listen to ABC radio and StarFM who will be running regular updates.

Is your house ember proof? The biggest threat to property are ember attacks which can come from kms away make sure your gutters and roof are clear of debris, anything that is flammable is as far away from your home, keep vegetation around your home as clear as possible.

Capital Works Projects - December/January

- Fingal Streetscape work is nearing completion with driveway and asphalt works scheduled for January.
- Resealing program is 80% complete and will be finalised in January.
- Sections of Ansons Bay Road and North Ansons Bay Road are being touched up prior to Christmas.
- Softfall replenishment is currently being undertaken at playgrounds as required.
- The Flat bridge in St Marys is scheduled for reopening prior to Christmas with final completion in January.
- Redecking of a bridge on Reids Road is currently underway.
- Town maintenance crews are working hard to prepare towns for the Christmas period.



Works being undertaken on The Flat Bridge, St Marys.

Weed of the month- Holly



We do not want to be spoiling the Christmas cheer, but did you know that holly is a Declared Weed in Tasmania? It is time to think of this tree with

shiny red berries and spiky leaves a little differently. Its red berries are attractive to birds too, who spread the seeds long distances. Holly can sucker from the roots and is shade tolerant and drought hardy. It has invaded many cool moist forests in Tasmania already, at Weldborough for example. If you have a holly tree give our native bush a Christmas present. Replace it, with a native 'Christmas mint bush' perhaps, and control any that have escaped and spread nearby. Hand-pull small young plants or look up holly on the DPIPW 'Declared Weeds index' for information on controlling large holly plants and trees. Take care not spread seeds. Holly can not be propagated, traded or distributed.

Break O'Day Community Triathlon

It is nearly Triathlon time again and the 2020 event will be incredibly exciting. Extending from one to two days, events include, Junior Triathlons, a 5km Fun Run as well as our normal Triathlon.

We will also have an ex-super star guest for the weekend, Craig Mottrom. Craig is a four time Olympian and if you google Craig, it will be obvious why this is such an amazing coup.

Ex St Mary's boy, Luke Faulkner from LRF Sport organised Craig's attendance for us as he wanted to help out with the Triathlon. Below is the schedule.

Saturday 8 February at Scamander

9.00am Junior Trystar Triathlon race one 7-9 year olds and race two 10-12 year olds.

10.00 am 5km Fun Run followed by Craig Mottrom speaking to participants about running tips.

Sunday 9 February St Helens Wharf area

9 am - 12 pm Junior and Adult Enticer Triathlons and then the Sprint event- featuring the state's best.

Support a wonderful event by participating. We are always after volunteers as well. For further event information, and to register for races, please go to the BREAK O'DAY COMMUNITY TRIATHLON website and Facebook for information.

St Helens Online Access Centre

St Helens Online Access Centre is open to the public five days a week.

We are located at 61 Cecilia Street, St Helens next to the St Helen's Library.

Our opening hours are:

Monday to Friday 10am to 5pm

Our telephone number: 03 63761116, email: sthelens.oac@education.tas.gov.au or find us on Facebook.

Please drop into our air conditioned Centre and access all these services for a small fee, as we are happy to assist you with your digital requirements,

and if you require assistance with email set up – we can help you.

New Volunteers are welcome to join our team.

We are a Not-for-Profit Organisation and our aim and mission is:

To serve the community to provide a: safe; supportive; non-judgmental; non-threatening environment to encourage growth and learning for all members of the community.

For a list of all our services, visit us on Facebook.

FREE GREEN WASTE

Every Sunday from:

3 November - 23 February

You can dispose of your green waste for free at the following Waste Transfer Stations:
St Helens, Scamander
and St Marys.