



From the General Manager - John Brown

Christmas is with us once again and we have received a great present from the State Government... I am sure that everyone in our community is pleased to see St Marys Pass reopen this week just in time for Christmas. The contractors, Andrew Walter Construction and their subcontractors have worked incredibly hard to get this vital link repaired. Our heartfelt thanks go to them, Department of State Growth and Minister Michael Fergusson for listening to the pleas of our community and Council to make this happen – a lovely Christmas present. In the meantime we are still pushing the State Government in relation to financial support for those businesses in St Marys who have suffered badly through this time.

I hope that you, your family and friends have a safe and wonderful Christmas and New Year. On behalf of everyone in the Break O'Day team, thank you for your patience and support during the year. It has certainly been challenging in the later part of the year so a special thank you to our outdoor teams who have struggled to keep on top of maintenance activities in amongst wet weather and floods. If you happen to see them around, say thanks to them for the work they do.

Keep up to date on Council activities and projects by joining our email database.

We have databases for each township as well as a Newsletter database that we regularly use to send information directly to our community. If you would like to be added to any of our databases please email admin@bodc.tas.gov.au

DECEMBER/JANUARY

Fingal community plants trees in honour of Her Majesty, The Queen's Platinum Jubilee



Pictured above: Brian Mitchell MP with Tarquin, Asha, Evie, Layla and Mayor Mick Tucker.

The Fingal community and Break O'Day Council planted four oak trees in honour of Her Majesty, The Queen's Platinum Jubilee on Friday 16 December 2022.

Students, community members and dignitaries gathered at 4pm at the Fingal Recreation Ground, the same site where trees were planted for Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee back in 1897.

Reenacting the Diamond Jubilee planting 125 years ago, four local school children planted some young new oaks to add to the surviving old ones planted by school students in 1897.

Brian Mitchell MP, Federal Member for Lyons unveiled a Platinum Jubilee commemorative plaque at the site.

Mayor Mick Tucker said the community and Fingal Neighbourhood House had arranged an amazing event that not just commemorated Her Majesty the Queen but also recognized Fingal's history.

"The Fingal community are very proud of their history and this was a wonderful

day for the community to show case this.

"I'm really pleased Council was able to support them with our Break O'Day Communities Queen's Jubilee Trees project.

"There was a history display provided by the Fingal Valley Neighbourhood House History Society which I really enjoyed exploring and I am sure everyone there did too," Mayor Mick Tucker said.

After the trees were planted, attendees enjoyed a BBQ, market stalls and kids activities organised by the Fingal Neighbourhood House and local community.

The Break O'Day Council's Break O'Day Communities Queen's Jubilee Trees project received funding from the Australian Government's Planting Trees for The Queen's Jubilee Program. The project is providing trees for six other townships in Break O'Day municipality to honour the Queen's Jubilee in 2022.

Christmas Message from the Mayor



Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from all of us at Council.

It has been a busy year and I am sure like me, many of you feel that you blinked and missed it, but here we are at the end of the year.

This time of year our community swells as visitors from around the state and the mainland flock to our beaches and natural environment to put their feet up. Let's make sure we make them all feel

welcome as their visitation supports our local businesses.

Of course more people means more traffic and I would like to urge everyone to take extra care on the roads over the summer holidays – your family would prefer to have you home late and safe rather than not at all.

Our area is known for its great fishing and this time of year our jetties and boat ramps also get busier. Unfortunately nearly every year we experience a tragedy on the water and as an ex-fisherman myself, I would like to urge you all to be extra safe on the water. Make sure you have good life jackets for everyone, make sure your flares are in date and most importantly check the weather conditions. If it looks rough or there is a change coming – go another day, the fish will still be there.

On behalf of Council, I would like to wish you all a happy and safe Holiday season – see you all next year.

Look out for nesting Shore birds

Did you know half the remaining eastern hooded plover population call Tasmania home? What's more, approximately 20% of these can be found on our north-eastern beaches!

Hooded plovers are small, threatened shorebirds. They live on beaches and rely on these areas to feed and nest. With summer here, hooded plovers are now in their breeding season. Hooded plovers lay their tiny, speckled eggs in a shallow scrape in the sand above the high-tide mark, and while their eggs are well camouflaged from predators, they are also difficult to see making them easy to step on.

The fairy tern is another rare and threatened bird with little more than 100

breeding pairs visiting Tasmania. About 70 pairs are nesting near St Helens this year.

There are many factors that makes survival hard enough for these threatened and vulnerable birds, but there is something we can do.

As you walk on the beach this summer, be mindful of where you tread, keep to the wet sand, and adhere to dog on-leash and exclusion zones. If you see a roped-off area, this means a nest has been identified - please be a good egg and give it a wide berth.

The Hooded Plover Project is supported by NRM North through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.



Pictured: Hooded plover nest. Image courtesy of Dr Eric Woehler

IN BRIEF Australia Day Awards

Every year Council hosts the annual Australia Day awards ceremony which recognises those who go above and beyond for our community.

There are two awards, the Australia Day Citizen and Young Australian Citizen. Nominations for these awards are currently open and will close on Tuesday 3 January 2023.

You can find more information on our website under My Community. Alternatively, you can drop in to the Council office and collect a hard copy.

St Marys Pass and Elephant Pass update

St Marys Pass is now open. A big thanks to the contractors and the State Government for making the Pass works a priority.

Council's position is that we would like to see the State Government consider all alternate route options to the East Coast that will not bypass our townships.

The State Government has announced that they will close the Elephant Pass on Tuesday 3 January 2023 to conduct repairs. Local Access will still be provided. This work is expected to be complete in early February 2023.

Future of Local Government Review

The Local Government Review board has just released its Options Paper which includes input from their first round of consultation. You can view these documents and have your say by going to www.engage.futurelocal.tas.gov.au

Waste Transfer Station Open Times

Please note: All Waste Transfer Stations are closed on Christmas Day. For a list of opening hours and items that can be left at each site, please see our website.

Bins out by 6AM

All kerbside bins, both waste and recycling MUST be out by 6am. The trucks don't always follow the same route from week to week so your bin may not be collected at the same time every collection.

Orienteering to descend on St Helens

Orienteering Tasmania is hosting the international 2023 Oceania Orienteering Championship Carnival in St Helens in January.

Seven hundred and fifty orienteers and additional family are expected from NZ, New Caledonia and all states of Australia for the 6-day event.

The Carnival begins with the Oceania Sprint Championships at the University of Tasmania, Launceston campus on January 7 and concludes in St Helens on January 12.

Attendees can explore the Bay of Fires and the Break O'Day region between the Carnival events.

If you see any orienteering people about, make sure you give them a big Break O'Day welcome.

You can find out more about this event here: oceania2023.tasorienteering.asn.au

Community seed collection workshops

Seymour Community Action Group (SCAGI) members recently participated in a seed collection workshop with Ruth Mollison from the Understory Network and Island Seeds.

The Winifred Curtis reserve was the perfect location for participants to learn how to identify tree and plant seeds ready for collection and harvesting techniques.

Ruth will continue to work with SCAGI members in 2023 to demonstrate seed propagation techniques.

These workshops are proudly supported by the Calvary Community Fund and Landcare Tasmania.

SCAGI works closely with Tasmanian Parks Wildlife Services, and the NE Bioregional Network and Landcare. If you are interested in learning more about SCAGI's activities please visit www.scagi7215.wixsite.com.

WHAT'S ON

St Helens Fire Brigade – Christmas Lollie Run

24 December

Held on the St Helens Foreshore from 3pm – 5pm

St Marys Christmas Parade

24 December

Held in the Main Street, St Marys from 5pm

St Marys Summer Celebration

20 January

This free event will be held at the St Marys Recreation Ground from 4-7pm. Organised by the Break O'Day Regional Arts (BODRA).

International Vetrans Woodchopping Series (1)

21 January

Held at the St Helens Athletics Carnival, Between 12 and 1pm.

Athletics Carnival

21 January

Held at the St Helens Sports Complex this free, family event features athletics events, woodchopping, food, drink and entertainment.

International Vetrans Woodchopping Series (2)

24 January

Held at the Pyengana Recreation Ground, Between 12 and 1pm.

International Vetrans Woodchopping Series (3)

28 January

Part of the Australia Day Celebration, St Helens Foreshore, Between 12 and 1pm

Australia Day Award Ceremony

26 January

Held at the Portland Hall, St Helens. Join us in awarding our Australian Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year.

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.

International Day of Disability celebration

In honour of International Day of People With Disabilities, Council in collaboration with the Break O'Day Disability Committee, hosted a special event.

More than 50 people attended where they got to enjoy activities like flower arranging, mosaic making and a scavenger hunt in the beautiful surrounds of a private property in St Helens. (Thank you to the property owner for opening their gates to us for

this event.)

International Day of Persons with Disabilities (December 3) is internationally recognised and promoted by the United Nations since 1992.

Celebration of the Day aims to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilize support for the dignity, rights and well-being of persons living with disability.



Next Council Meetings:

16 January and 21 February 2023 at 10am in the Council Chambers

You can find our newsletters online at www.bodc.tas.gov.au/community/news-events/

Council Works Reports

- Work has started on a new footpath in Young Street, St Helens. The path will create a link between Medea Cove Esplanade and Tully Street.
- Grading is occurring in the Ansons Bay area including Eddystone Point Road, Policemans Point Road and Ansons Bay Road.
- Road reconstruction/digouts are being done to fix pavement failures at Scamander and St Marys caused by the severe weather events.
- Crews are working tirelessly to manage grass cutting throughout the municipality. They are being hampered by the occasional wet day here and there.
- Roadside slashing is underway at St Marys and Fingal. Then moving to Upper Scamander Road and the St Helens area.
- Our road resealing program will commence in mid January with prep works and resealing starting in late January.

Pictured: Young St footpath works



COUNCIL OFFICE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY OPEN HOURS

We will be closed from
12:30pm Friday 23 December
and will reopen at 9am on
Tuesday 3 January

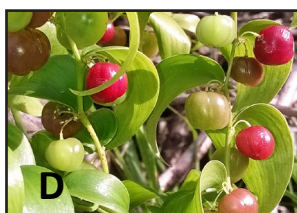
Weed of the Month Quiz

Here's a weed quiz for you to puzzle over the Christmas and New Year break.

A key to successful weed management is identifying weeds so you can find out how to control them effectively and safely.

Identify the weeds pictured by matching to their correct name (Choose from the list below).

Send your "Weed of the Month Quiz" answers in to us at admin@bodc.tas.gov.au before Thursday 5 February 2023 and the first three correct ones picked out of a hat by our Front of house staff will win a weeders surprise pack.



1 Patersons curse; 2 Sea spurge; 3 Rice grass; 4 Devils snare; 5 Boneseed; 6 Serrated tussock; 7 Ragwort; 8 Bridal creeper; 9 Mirror bush; 10 Bluebell creeper.

Housing Shortage - How can you help?

Like many towns across the state and even nation, we are experiencing a housing shortage.

Council has heard story after story of people who have found employment in our area, or are looking to move their family here but are unable to find suitable housing.

This is really bad news for our community because it means local businesses are struggling to find and keep employees, potential service providers are unable to establish and it means our community cannot grow. Simply put, we desperately need rental housing now to support seasonal workers, families, young people and anyone who can't afford to purchase a home right now.

This is where you come in... If you have a secondary house or holiday home that you're not using all the time, we would love to chat to you about exploring ways you could support our community.

You may be open to renting a room to a seasonal worker, renting your house over winter while you don't use it, or maybe you're not using the shack the way you used to and it could better serve you as generating income as a long term rental for a while or, you may want to change from short-term to long-term rental to give you a consistent cash flow while interest rates are high.

If you think you can help, we would really appreciate hearing from you, call the office on 6376 7900 or send us an email to admin@bodc.tas.gov.au.

COMMUNITY GRANTS - NOW OPEN



Do you have a project idea that would benefit our community?

Break O'Day Council's Community Grants are now open.

You can find more information on our website under My Community / Break O'Day Community Grants.

You can also drop-in to the office for hard copies of information and forms.