

From the General Manager - John Brown

It came as no surprise to anyone when a State Election was called and we were ready with our list of priorities for our community.

In the second half of last year, Council identified six priorities it would lobby candidates for in the State Election and seeking their support and commitment to address. There should be no surprise that an alternative route replacing the St Marys Pass was high on our list as it is such a vital piece of infrastructure for the Break O'Day community. Also on the priority list, a new purpose built childcare centre at St Marys is very much needed in this community. A commitment to ongoing and increased provision of health and related services at St Marys is also being sought and we are looking for this to expand more widely throughout Break O'Day. We have also been advocating for the State Government to consider the option of building a new school at St Helens when the current school reaches the point of needing a major upgrade. Completion of the multi-user track around Georges Bay is also a project we would like to complete, but we need support from the State and Federal Governments. The much needed Master Plan for the Bay of Fires area rounds out the list. Interestingly, just before the State Election was called, the State Government announced the details of the East Coast Strategic Regional Partnership which included three of these projects which seems to have ticked them off. Regardless, we are continuing to advocate for support for all of these vital projects. If you get the chance when talking to candidates, push these projects on behalf of our local community, this helps to underline their importance to all of us. You can find a copy of our election priorities on our website.

Professional Netballers Spend The Day with the St Helens Community



Photo: Our netball athletes with the Cavaliers who are currently on tour celebrating the SSN Trophy

St Helens recently had the opportunity to spend the day with the Cavaliers netball team who are currently touring Australia playing netball and showcasing the Suncorp Super Netball Trophy. The trophy is making ten stops around the country before the 2024 Suncorp Super Netball season kicks off and St Helens was lucky enough to be picked as the only town in Tasmania included in the tour. "It is such an honour and a treat for the Break O'Day community to have a match of this calibre in our small town." Break O'Day Council Deputy Mayor Kristi Chapple said. The community came to support the sport of netball with a free day of netball activities for all ages.

Our little netballers were able to participate in a pop up NetSetGo Clinic learning about the sport, being

active and most importantly to have fun. Locals and visitors alike were able to take photos with the trophy and meet members of the Cavaliers. In the afternoon, the community were treated a match watching the Cavaliers take on the Suns "Hosting this one and only Tasmanian match is a bit of a coup for our area considering all the other matches, which are part of the national Suncorp Super Netball Trophy Tour are in major cities, many of them Capital cities." The Deputy Mayor noted. This event was able to bring some excitement to St Helens and shines a light on the sport as well as introduces new faces to our local netball groups in the area. Congratulations to the St Helens Netball Association for ensuring our community's up and coming netballers have these amazing opportunities.



Photo: Our little netball athletes enjoying activities.



Photo: The trophy taking in the sights of St Helens

Safer Australian Roads and Highways - BODC partner with the SARAH Group



SARAH Group CEO Peter Frazer presents Mayor Mick Tucker and General Manager John Brown a Certificate of Appreciation

Break O'Day Council is pleased to announce we have partnered with Safer Australian Roads and Highways (SARAH) as a Tasmanian Yellow Ribbon Road Safety Council. At a recent Council meeting, Peter Frazer, the CEO of the SARAH Group presented to our elected members and Council staff and his story had a significant impact on all who heard it.

On 15 February 2012, Peter's daughter Sarah was killed by a truck driver in a completely avoidable crash on the Hume Freeway, New South Wales. Since then, Peter has dedicated his life to improving road safety in Australia and overseas. In March 2012, Peter founded SARAH Group and created and remains the driving force behind Australia's National Road Safety Week, as well as the nation's road safety symbol, the "Yellow Ribbon".

"When I heard Peter Frazer speak at a recent forum, his presentation was truly inspiring," Mayor Mick Tucker said. "I found his message extremely important so I invited him to share his

story with our elected members and staff, which he graciously accepted."

During his presentation, Peter iterated to elected members and staff how important road safety is and what important role Local Government can play in this place in ensuring road safety. "SARAH is excited to be working in partnership with Council and supporting their important work in not only further developing a positive road safety culture but to also highlight strategies that can be put in place to make our roads safer for this important community." Mr Frazer noted.

In the lead up to National Road Safety Week, you will see vehicles displaying the Yellow Ribbon it is a reminder that we each have a responsibility to "Drive So Others Survive! It is our shared task to actively protect the lives and health of every Tasmanian on our roads and highways

"Council and SARAH are committed to ensuring every person can get home safe to their loved ones ... every day... No Exceptions!" Mayor Tucker said.

IN BRIEF

Act now: TFS Fire Alarm Signalling Equipment upgrade

Building operators and business owners must upgrade to new Alarm Signalling Equipment (ASE) to meet fire safety and building occupancy regulations.

If your current ASE was installed prior to 1 January 2020, an upgrade is required.

Why is this action urgent?

Older ASE is operated via Telstra's 3G network, and this network will be decommissioned in June 2024. This means any outdated ASE will cease to be monitored by the Tasmania Fire Service. A monitored fire alarm system provides a safe environment for all premises occupants and early notification to firefighters in the event of a fire.

Find out more at www.fire.tas.gov.au/ASEupdate or contact the TFS on 03 6173 2770, or email ase.support@dpfem.tas.gov.au

For information on the Telstra 3G network shutdown visit Telstra: www.telstra.com.au/business-enterprise/support/3g-service-closure

Volunteer Fire Fighter Tony Chugg – Falmouth TFS award

Tony Chugg has recently been recognised for his dedication as a volunteer fire fighter with the Falmouth Fire Brigade. For over 20 years he helped keep our community safe by attending many different fires and emergency response situations ranging from as far as Binalong Bay to Mathinna to Dolphin Sands and the South. Attending an event, held in Tony's honour, Mayor Tucker had the opportunity to congratulate and acknowledge Tony Chugg, from Four Mile Creek for over 20 years of service and said, "His contribution, passion and dedication to our community is outstanding". Tony's wife Sally was also recognised for her support, in ensuring Tony was well prepared when he was called out at any time of day or night. Break O'Day Council and the community would like to thank Tony for his commitment to our community.

The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention.

- Oscar Wilde

Barry and Su Victorious at the Mayor's Croquet Challenge

The Mayor's Croquet Challenge was held at the Northern Croquet Centre at St. Leonards on February 15th. With our Mayor being unavailable, Councillor Barry Le Fevre and his partner Su van den Heuvel represented Break O'Day. Knowing little about croquet Su and Barry had several coaching sessions with the St Helens croquet crew.

On the day, a record of seven Councils fronted to contest the event, two players per Council. Break O'Day lost the first round game then won the second with some great shots gliding through the hoops. In the third game, the opposition

were very confident and it was touted this was "a battle for the ages". After 30 minutes, time was called and BODC won 4-3. As a result, the grand final was controversial with their respective coaches disputing the end of the game. Break O'Day took an early lead and after well over 30 minutes of play managed to take the title 4-3.

This is the first time Break O'Day has won the challenge and as defending champions no doubt will have to lift their game next year to be competitive. Once again Break O'Day comes out on top. Well done Barry and Su.

National Volunteer Week 2024: 'Something for Everyone'

Council's Community Services Team are inviting local community groups to make a short film between two and five minutes long to share their volunteering story. The short films will be shared on Council's Social media and website and screened at an event during National Volunteer Week from 20 -26 May. This year's theme is 'Something For Everyone' and all the different stories shared together will show everyone that volunteering in Break O'Day really does have something for everyone.

"Here in Break O'Day we have an ageing population and we have seen so many local community groups have to fold simply because they could not attract new members.

"We know that those that volunteer get so much out of giving back to their communities so we wanted to find an innovative way to share these stories," Break O'Day Mayor, Mick Tucker said

Break O'Day Volunteers and Community Groups are invited to register their interest by 15 March and they can find information including the guidelines on Council's website. Alternatively, groups can contact Council by calling the office on 6376 7900 or emailing community.services@bodc.tas.gov.au. The Community Services team are also ready to help if community groups need any assistance in developing a short film. "We are really excited to see what our local volunteers put together as well as being able to share them with our community.

"We really want our community, not just to celebrate the work of our amazing volunteers but also understand what volunteering opportunities are available in our community and just how rewarding volunteering can be," Mayor Tucker said.



The poster features a film strip background. At the top left is a green clapperboard with '2024'. Next to it is an orange arrow pointing right with the text 'BREAK O'DAY VOLUNTEER FILM FESTIVAL'. To the right is a pink oval with 'NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK 20-26 MAY' and 'Something for Everyone'. Below the film strip, the text 'CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!' is written in large, bold, black letters. Underneath that, it says 'Make a film. Celebrate your efforts. Inspire others.' and 'Volunteering in Break O'Day has something for everyone!'. At the bottom left is the website www.bodc.tas.gov.au/community/volunteering/. At the bottom right is the Break O'Day logo.

WHAT'S ON

The Lighthouse - Every Wednesday

Serving the Break O'Day community, The Lighthouse is a safe place where you can enjoy a free cuppa, hot soup and roll, warm beanies and scarves or a friendly chat. Open every Wednesday, 11am-1pm at the Anglican Hall - 56 Cecilia Street, St Helens.

International Women's Day Lunch -8 March

Come celebrate and embrace equity with With One Voice Choir Break O'Day and guest speaker Penny Terry. Lunch will be held at the Fingal Valley Neighbourhood House at 11am-2pm and tickets are \$10 per person. To book tickets visit www.events.humanitix.com/fingal-valley-international-women-s-day-lunch. For more information call Rebecca on 6374 2344 or Tanya on 0400 002 116

Heal your Body and Soul Festival 9 March 10am-4pm 10 March 10am-3pm

Come check out the festival this Saturday and Sunday at Portland Memorial Hall, St Helens. There will be mediums, healers, readers, crystals, tarot and more to get you in touch with your spiritual side.

Lily's International Women's Day Youth Event 13 March

Come and hear what young people have to say and chill out making cool art and craft, talk to friends and get involved in the Q&A. FREE event at the Portland Hall, St Helens - with afternoon tea provided. Performance by One Voice - Break O'Day Choir. Don't forget to wear the colour purple.

Laurel House - Community Conversation - 14 March

Join Laurel House for a conversation and FREE training about sex, consent and preventing harm for everyone's wellbeing. The session will be at St Marys Hall at 11.30am-1.30pm. To book your spot email nita.joy@laurelhouse.org.au

Try Cubing - Speedcubing Australia 24 March

Register by 16 March to try your hand at solving a rubik's cube in under 10 minutes and receive a world ranking. All ages and abilities are welcome. Cost is \$20 to enter the competition at the Portland Hall at St Helens. Spectators are FREE. Visit <https://www.worldcubeassociation.org/competitions/>

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

- Maintenance grading of North Ansons Bay Road continues
- Resheeting of Ansons Bay near completion
- Eddystone Point Road grading completed
- Upper Scamander Road works underway – asphalt and drainage repairs this will be followed by resheeting of the damaged section
- Attention has turned to rectifying flood damaged roads

Tasmania Reads Week 2024

Celebrate Tasmania Reads Week 17-23 March and discover or rediscover the joy of reading. For more information visit Libraires Tasmania's Facebook page as more events will be announced.



Want help identifying weeds and help weed control efforts?

Weedscan is a free Australian app that identifies weeds from photos and puts them on the map. You can use it online:

weedscan.org.au/

DOG STATISTICS 3/01/2024 - 8/02/2024

Urban Patrols = 15
Beach Patrols = 19
Infringements = 1
Unregistered Dog = 0
Impounded dogs = 1

Weed of the month - Spanish heath

Spanish heath is one of Break O'Day's most serious invasive weeds. It is an early season flowering shrub carrying millions of tiny seeds by late winter. People often unwittingly spread the seeds in spring. Landowners are obliged to contain and control their Spanish heath and everyone can do their bit to reduce its spread. It requires well timed treatment to control and the next few months are the best. Start by planning your control strategy and take action this autumn. Spanish heath can be hand dug (roots and cut stems can re-sprout) or treated with herbicides (spraying or using the cut-stump method). Find and treat isolated plants first and follow-up next season. Slashing dense patches can

reduce seeding this season, but must be before flowering and is not sufficient for control. Do not mow or slash after flowering and be very 'hygienic' around Spanish heath. Handle any material with flowers very carefully.

Get more detailed information via: www.nre.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/weeds



Checking in on your Neighbours

The Break O'Day Access and Inclusion Committee suggests checking in on your neighbours regularly, not just in times of crisis. Neighbour Day, on March 31, 2024, focuses on bringing us together and fighting loneliness, this day can provide a great opportunity to begin the positive practice of respectfully caring for your neighbours. This year's theme is 'Create belonging, share belonging,' emphasising simple actions that make us feel closer. Here's how you can start the positive practise of caring for your neighbours on Neighbour Day this year:

- Say hi with a smile to make their day better.
- Start chats with compliments or questions to get to know them.
- Keep conversations going by remembering what you talked about before.
- Help out with tasks like taking out the bins, gardening, or sharing extra produce.
- Never impose, respect others' boundaries, choices, and autonomy.
- Once you've built a connection, send a text or give them a call to check in. Texting is a low-pressure way to stay in touch regularly.

By doing these things, we can build a caring community where everyone belongs, all year round. Let's celebrate togetherness and make our community stronger.

Scam Awareness - St Helens Online Access Centre

St Helens Online Access Centre was one of our local organisations who received \$3,000 from the Break O'Day Council Community Grant Funding in 2023, to be used in their campaign to increase Scam Awareness.

Scam Awareness Sessions have been held at the Centre on a weekly basis since November. A recent potential scam was averted due to the training and quick thinking of their dedicated volunteers. A Patron came into the Online Centre requesting help to download a form which was asking for all their personal and financial details. It was identified that the patron was being "groomed" by a scammer and left aware that he had avoided a very bad situation. According to a recent Government statement, scam reporting in the year 2023-2024 has increased by 79% on the previous year.

The Scams Coordinator, Sharon is available to speak with local community organisations about Scam Awareness. For more information on upcoming sessions please contact the St Helens Online Access Centre on 6376 1116.