

Next Council Meeting:
February 19 at 10am and March 19 at 10am

Message from the General Manager- John Brown

Whilst we hear the headline announcements of the various parties in the State Election, invariably it comes down to 'What is in it for me?' which can impact on how we vote. From a Council perspective we want to know what is going to be done that helps us achieve priorities we have for the Break O'Day area - things which matter to the local community.

Sometimes it is hard to decipher this as it can be hidden in a broader program announcement, say for example a '\$?? Million Roads Package', which ultimately becomes a series of smaller announcements tailored for specific areas. At the time of writing this report we have only seen one direct announcement in relation to the priorities we have.

Whilst Council is a very strong advocate for the local area, we also have to be careful to balance our approach with the major parties, after all we want them both to commit to everything we ask for and then throw in some more. A few months ago, Council identified a number of priorities that we have been pursuing. Main priorities are:

- Tasman Highway upgrading from St Helens southwards (hopefully to Hobart eventually).
- Flood mitigation for St Marys Rivulet and Lower George River area.
- Georges Bay Foreshore Multi-user track missing link.
- St Marys Arts & Cultural Heritage Precinct.

Council can lobby and push for things whilst the cheque book is open, our arguments get stronger when local community groups and members also push for these and other projects they may have. So if you happen to see an aspiring representative for State Parliament, ask them what is going to be provided for the Break O'Day area. Sometimes they will promise things which are already locked in and fully funded, eg. new St Helens Hospital.



Above: Australia Day Award Recipients with Mayor Mick Tucker. Below: Celebrity Pie eating competition and the winners of the Colouring-in competition.



Australia Day Celebrations a great success

The Break O'Day Australia Day Celebrations were another huge success this year with plenty of people from local residents to visitors joining in the celebrations at the Portland Hall in St Helens.

We were honoured this year to have the inspiring Jack and Chris Duffy as our Australia Day Ambassadors who said they really enjoyed chatting with the locals and getting involved in some of the activities.

The Australia Day Celebrations always kick-off with an official ceremony at 10am where the awards for Australia Day Citizen of Year and Young Citizen

of the Year take place. We would like to congratulate this year's award recipients, Citizen of the Year Gary Barnes, and Young Citizens of the Year Nathan Tetlow and Marcus Reid.

The Mayor's Choice Awards for Outstanding Contribution to the Community went to Kerri Webb and Michael Richards and the Break O'Day Municipality Excellence Award was given to Bob McQuattie and St Helens Marine Rescue.

Council would like to thank all those who came along and took part in the fun and frivolities.

St Helens Regatta Rocks On wrap up

Following the Australia Day Celebrations was the new look St Helens Regatta Rocks On which is going from strength to strength with record attendance again this year.

Combining a car show and shine, traditional on water activities, a woodchop, show rides and fireworks

display sponsored by ChilliFM, the Regatta truly has something for everyone.

Council would like to thank all the volunteers and community groups that sacrificed their own time and energy to again make this event a success.

Bendigo Community Bank - Officially open

Last Thursday the St Helens-St Marys Community Bank was officially opened.

More than 100 people attended the event which saw the Community Bank reiterate its commitment to the local community by handing out a total of \$4500 to local community groups and associations including; The Fingal Valley Festival, the Fingal Valley Neighbourhood House, St Marys Community Space, The Scamander Surf Life Saving Club, The St Helens Volunteer Fire Brigade, Poss 'M'agic, St Helens Netball Association, East Coast

Swans Football Club and St Helens Marine Rescue.

The bank reported that it already had \$25M on their books, a fantastic start for the local branch.

Now the branch has officially opened all are welcome to drop into the branch located in Cecilia Street, St Helens to meet the Customer Service team which includes Customer Service Officers Rhani Hays and Pam Bailey, Customer Relationship Officer Tom Bassett and Branch Manager Sheree Archer.



Left: Community Bank Chair, Andrew MacGregor and Mayor Mick Tucker and Bank Mascot 'Piggy'. Right: Your new Community Bank team; Pam Bailey, Rhani Hays, Tom Bassett and Sheree Archer



St Helens all set for its first triathlon

Thanks to a hard working committee, St Helens is set to have its first ever Triathlon Event on March 4, 2018 that includes a pool of more than \$7000 in prize money and spot prizes.

Starting at the St Helens Foreshore, participants will swim in Georges Bay, ride halfway to Binalong Bay and run along the Main Road and around the George's Bay walking track.

Because competitors will be on the roads, there will be a total road closure on the day from 8am – 12noon for Marina Parade, Georges Bay Esplanade, Cameron St to the Corner of Quail St and Binalong Bay Rd to residence 484. The Tasman Hwy from

the Bridge to around Lawry Heights will have one lane closed and be managed by traffic lights from 7am -1.30 pm. Please ensure that you take notice of all relevant signage on the day.

There will be three events; 9am, Junior Enticer and Adult Enticer which include a 350m swim, 10km bike ride and 2.5 km run, and the Sprint event at 10am which is designed for serious athletes and features a 750m swim, 20km bike ride and 5km run.

Food vans will also be on hand offering goodies ranging from smoked pulled pork to Wonk's famous fish patties to Blue Cave delights.

Athletes will have plenty of cool water, icy-poles and even a massage from the local Relax staff as well as the amazing prize money and spot prizes.

Spectators are not just welcome but encouraged!

For more information or to enter please go to the Break O'Day Community Triathlon Facebook page.

Pictured to the left; The Triathlon Committee: Natalie Walter, Marika McGuinness, Chris Cumming, Barry Le Fevre, Julie-Anne Hall



IN BRIEF

School Based Immunisation Program, 2018

Consent packs have been sent home with Grade 7, 10 and 11-12 students.

Vaccines for Grade 7 students are Gardasil (9vHPV), Boostrix (dTpa) and Grade 10, as well as any Grade 11-12 catch up, is Menactra (MenW).

The Meningococcal W Vaccine Program for teenagers aged 15-19 years will finish on April 30, 2018, after then the vaccine will no longer be free.

Please return packs to your school signed with or without consent by Wednesday February 21, 2018.

Round One will be on Wednesday March 7, 2018, held at your local school.

If you have any questions regarding the School Immunisation Program or you didn't receive a consent pack, please contact Council's Immunisation Coordinator on 6376 7900.

Fingal Valley Festival

Now in its 38th year the Fingal Valley Festival will be held on Saturday March 3 at the Fingal Recreation Ground from 10am – late pm.

The annual event features the World Mining Titles including; Coal Shovelling and Roof Bolting competitions, as well as a BBQ competition, Wood Chopping competition, Car show, kids rides including giant slide, jumping castle, go-karts and face painting, Stables Handmade craft markets, St Helens archery, snake handlers and live music from the St Marys School Band, Brian Fraser and Adam Page.

There is also a raffle with 1st prize \$250 worth of wood, 2nd prize two \$100 vouchers to White Sands, 3rd, a whole lamb butchered and 4th prize a Pamper Hamper from the Mathinna Club. Free Camping available.

RUBBISH BINS
Please remember that rubbish bins need to be out by 6am for collection.

Bin checks and Recycling calendars

The new kerbside recycling service has been in place almost three months and the community is getting into the swing of separating recyclables from general waste as well as the new calendar.

As part of Council's partnership with the Northern Tasmania Waste Management Group (NTWMG), representatives from Council and NTWMG are conducting bin audits in the area to ensure we are all on track with our recycling. This is important as higher rates of contamination will result in additional waste charges for the contractor which is then passed on to Council.

The bin audits are a free service and involve two inspectors checking what is in a household's recycle bin. Once they have checked the bins they will place a sticker on the bin. A green sticker means everything is ok, an orange sticker means there is minor contamination and red means serious contamination.

The last report Council received from the inspectors was positive and showed that the overwhelming majority of

residents are doing the right thing. There were some failures and these came down to people putting their recycling in plastic bags and putting general waste or items that cannot be recycled in their bins. If you are unsure about what can and can't go in the recycle bin we recommend you refer to the information you received in your info pack when the new bins were delivered or download the Recycle Coach App.

The inspectors will be continuing to work their way around the St Helens area for the next six weeks. If you have any questions feel free to say G'day and get some advice.

We would also like to advise that separate waste and recycling calendars will be delivered to residents by the end of February. The new calendars show 12 months of collection and feature magnets so they can easily be stuck to your fridge.

REMEMBER: Your bin must be out by 6am to ensure you don't miss collection.



Message from TasWater - Mathinna and Cornwall

Works are continuing this month for the treated water supplies in Cornwall and Mathinna with new water treatment plants taking shape on a factory floor in Launceston.

The factory was established last year to allow for the highly efficient construction of the water treatment plants in one central location. It employs more than 30 local workers with much of the site works in the regional towns being undertaken by Tasmanian civil contractors.

Reticulation network upgrades in Cornwall and Mathinna are being carried out by TasWater contractor Water Industry Solutions.

The water treatment plant for Cornwall is expected to be onsite for testing in

March. Construction is also underway on the new treated water reservoir and other site works with reticulation upgrade works already completed in the town.

Mathinna will also receive one of the plants from Launceston in the coming months with civil works beginning in March. Reticulation network upgrades are currently underway.

The fully commissioned plants will be lifted by crane from the factory floor onto a truck and then transported with an escort to the sites where they will be installed. They will then undergo testing before they begin operating.

For further information about this project, please visit 24glasses.com.au

COMING UP

George's Bay Music

February 23

The February Lunch and Munch Concert, at Tidal Waters Resort is back and starts at 12 noon. The concert is preceded at 11.30 by the Annual Meeting of the Club and presentation of the Annual Report.

Cavaliers Netball Clinic

March 3

Held at the Stadium, this free clinic starts at 12noon and is followed by a demonstration game at 3.15pm. To register your interest please contact Ebony Duke; 0408 797 884

Fingal Valley Festival

March 3

Held at the Fingal Recreation Ground this event includes coal shovelling and roof bolting competition plus live music and plenty of family fun.

St Helens Triathlon

March 4

Starting at the St Helens Foreshore participants will swim in Georges Bay, cycle halfway to Binalong Bay and run along the main road and around Georges Bay. This is the first St Helens Triathlon so come along and help make it a success.

St Helens Game Fishing Classic

March 10-11

This annual event is a drawcard for our area and includes major prizes for heaviest gamefish and broadbill as well as tag and release sections for teams and anglers. To enter contact the secretary; shgfc11@gmail.com.

XPD Australia's Expedition Adventure Race

March 16-25

Bringing international competitors and media to our area, this event is a coup for Break O'Day. The event is an expedition race that includes trekking, mountain biking and kayaking.

Field Archery Shoots

Every Sunday from 9am

Break O'Day Field Archery Club Inc invite all to join them for a fun morning of archery. No experience required. Cost \$10 per person + \$5 hire fees. Range located at 24627 Tasman Hwy, Dianas Basin. All enquiries phone Liane Gordon - 6376 1815

Old Codgers Meeting

Every Friday

St Helens Books and Coffee are offering men over 50 the chance to call in, enjoy a hot cuppa, play some cards/chess or just meet some new blokes. Held from 2-4pm. Cost: \$1 per cuppa.

St Helens Markets

Every Saturday

Held every Saturday in the St Helens town centre from 8am - 1pm. New stall holders welcome, phone 0475 844 481.

Capital Works Projects - February / March

- The valley town maintenance crew will be focusing in the Fingal area this month in preparation for the Fingal Valley Festival on the March 3.
- The unsealed road crew are extremely busy due to the dry weather which makes it hard to maintain gravel roads. We have one crew operating on Ansons Bay Rd / Nth Ansons Bay Rd and the surrounding roads and another crew at Roses Tier at Upper Esk.
- A works crew will start a new project from the Capital Works Program on the February 20 – the Penelope St, St Helens footpath upgrade between the Big4 Caravan Park entrance and Lawry Heights.
- The next Capital Works Project after the Penelope St footpath will be the footpath link on St Helens Point Rd between Chimney Heights and Jetty Rd.

St Marys Streetscape

This week works started on the St Marys Streetscape.

This is stage two of the St Marys Master Plan and will include footpath and stormwater works in Story Street and east of the St Marys bridge.

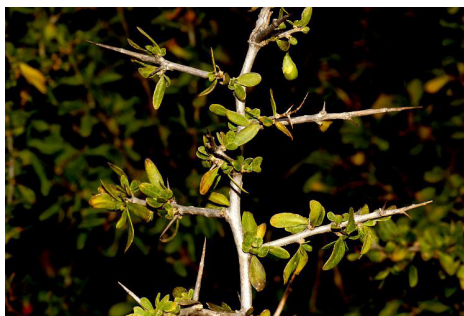
These works aim to tie the whole township together as well as make the town feel welcoming in order to encourage people to stop and sample St Marys'-wares.

Please be aware of our workers in the area and obey all signage.



Pictured above is Stage 1 of the St Marys Streetscape.

Weed of the month - African Boxthorn



African boxthorn is a declared weed in Tasmania and is a Weed of National Significance due to its invasiveness, potential to spread and effects on environmental values. It is a woody shrub that has white flowers and bright orange-red berries when ripe. African boxthorn also has very large spikes,

making them hazardous, displaces native vegetation and provides habitat to pests eg rabbits. They also have an extensive root system that makes manual removal difficult.

African boxthorn is found in numerous areas in the Break O'Day area and if you have it on your property it can be removed by digging it out if small or cutting it at the base and applying herbicide (being careful of the spikes). Large plants can also be removed mechanically using machinery.

For further information please visit www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/weeds.

Bendigo Community Stadium update

The Bendigo Community Stadium has now been officially open for two years so we thought it would be a good time to give the community an update on how it is going.

At the moment the Stadium is booked out nearly every weeknight by local sporting groups and associations, but it is not just the locals who are enjoying the facility.

Due to its size and quality, the stadium has also started attracting events from outside Break O'Day which is great as it brings more people to our area to shop at our local businesses plus enjoy the sights which they can then tell all their friends and family about, further promoting our area.

Last October the Stadium hosted the Science Questacon which saw more than 500 people joining in activities and learning all about science in an informal and fun way.

Just last week the stadium hosted a Muster for Mental Health which saw 50 participants join the forum to

hear from recognised experts in their fields with a strong focus on suicide prevention.

The stadium will once again host a State League Netball Clinic on March 3 as well as a game between the Cavaliers and the AYC Arrows on April 28 which always attracts a great local crowd and sees teams stay locally.

The big coup for the stadium so far this year will be the XPD Expedition race which is set to see around 100 competitors and media descending on our area from all over Australia and the world for six days from March 16. This event is a big win for our business community and our area and we would encourage all the community to make all entrants feel welcome.

Council have also been successful in receiving a grant to fit out the new kiosk at the stadium with a full commercial kitchen which is something our local sporting groups and associations have been pushing for and we are pleased to be able to accommodate this.



The Science Questacon was a huge success.



Netball Clinics at the stadium are always well attended.