

Next Council Meetings:
16 March and April 20 at 10am

From General Manager - John Brown

Coming back from the Christmas break is normally a quieter time around the Council which we look forward to and it is amazing what you can get done during the first few weeks of the new year. Unfortunately this year was different as we faced the bushfire emergency that had developed in the Fingal-Mangana area and the need to assist and support the communities through this traumatic and confronting time. What stood out for us was not only the professionalism and support from emergency services and government agencies, but the way that this community pulls together and helps out in a time of crisis.

The strong community spirit was on display as day after day the Fingal Valley Neighbourhood House, its staff and volunteers, as well as local community members, assisted and supported; Council staff, Tasmanian Fire Service, and government agencies to keep the community informed and provide access to housing and financial assistance. A special mention to Gary Barnes who was meant to be having some well earned annual leave, instead he was there basically every day over a two week period (he was dragged away for one day) giving assistance and nothing was too much trouble. Local businesses went out of their way to support the efforts of the crews and contractors working to bring the fires under control.

On that, we have to say a big thank you to everyone involved, the Tasmanian Fire Service, State Emergency Service, Sustainable Timber Tasmania, Parks & Wildlife Service, Tasmania Police, contractors and crews from all over the State including the helicopters who were an ever present representation about how serious it was or could have become. At the end of the day we were lucky, there was one particular day that had all the hallmarks of being horrendous due to the forecast weather which luckily didn't eventuate.



Get ready for our first MTB event

Not even 12 months in and already the St Helens Mountain Bike Trails have attracted an international event.

The Dragon Trail MTB will be an annual event that takes in more than 150km of mountain bike trails from Blue Derby to the St Helens stacked loop network. Already the event has attracted more than 300 competitors nationally and internationally, some coming as far afield as the UK.

Organised by GeoCentric outdoors, (the organisers of XPD), the event has secured international media who will be following the competitors, this includes, FLOW MTB, Australian Adventure Geographic, Mountain

Bike South Africa etc. We hope that competitors and media alike will be met with our enthusiastic community spirit.

We are really excited to be able to partner with Dragon Trail on this event and look forward to seeing it grow year on year.

The event runs from the 26 - 28 March; Day one will take place in Derby and the Blue Tier, Day two sees competitors tackle the Bay of Fires Trail and Day three will be on a variety of trails in the St Helens stacked loop network.

For more information about the event head to the Dragon Trail website.

Congratulations Australia Day Award winners

Break O'Day Council Australia Day Celebration was held at the Portland Hall, St Helens.

The event started at 12noon with Citizenship Ceremonies and the official Australia Day Awards which were presented by Mayor Mick Tucker and Australia Day Ambassador, Bruce Englefield from East Coast Natureworld.

Congratulations to this year's Australian Citizen Awards as well as

the Mayor's special Award winners.

Australian Citizen of the Year Award - Pat Green

All those that know Pat would agree she has been a very generous volunteer within the Pyengana community. Pat lives close to the recreation ground and for a long time – in excess of 30 years, Pat was the sole person who ensured that this facility was clean and in readiness for any community group who wished to use this facility.

Continued over

Pat has shown great community spirit by ensuring that there were activities for those within the community and those visiting – either as an organising or volunteer - games nights and money raised from same going back into the community, the Children's Christmas party, the annual wood chopping carnival to provide funds for St Giles.

Pat has been a member of the local Hall committee and was very active in working towards the new shower block which allowed for this area to be opened up for not only overnight campers but also more sporting events to be held at Pyengana.

Australia Day Young Citizen of the Year Award - Jackson Spilsbury

Jackson is a 19 year old active

member of the St Marys Community who has shown a mature outlook. Jackson started a VET school based apprenticeship at the St Marys Caltex service station. Whilst many of his friends continued their education in Launceston, Jackson stayed and has continued his apprenticeship – where he is currently in his fourth year.

Whilst completing his apprenticeship in St Marys, Jackson is an active member of the St Marys Fire Brigade and was awarded the inaugural Anthony Gee Memorial Award for his service within the St Marys Fire Brigade.

Mayor's Special Award - Sue Kuter Break O'Day Municipality Excellence Award – Joint winners; Tyler Birch, Eleanor Taylor and Richard Gee.



Australian Day Citizen Awards Jackson Spilsbury and Pat Green with Bruce Englefield.

Community Flood Planning for St Marys

Being prepared is an important step for families, businesses and the community to be flood-resilient. Understanding the flood risks you face, planning ahead to respond well when floods do come again, and then the recovery phase afterwards all need consideration. To help with this the SES introduced its Community Flood Planning project to St Marys at the Market on 1 February with a draft Flood Guide for St Marys (similar to the Community Bushfire Protection Plan by the TFS). Residents in flood risk locations are also being invited to develop their own flood plans to protect their households and businesses. Anyone interested who didn't meet the SES Community Flood

Planner Emma Gardner at the Market, or who has questions or suggestions about Community Flood Planning for St Marys, can contact Emma on emma.gardner@ses.tas.gov.au or ph. 6166 5685.

Community level flood planning is a priority of the Flood Risk Management Plan for St Marys. Council is working on flood mitigation priorities as well including; modifying The Flat bridge, a levee bank and improving flood alerts for the community. Further information is available on Councils website under Our Environment / Water Management / -St Marys Flood Risk Management.

IN BRIEF

Landcare Grants

The Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association is taking applications for this Tasmanian Government funded four year grants program. Farmers, community groups and others can apply for up to \$10,000 for practical activities that improve landscape and riverine health, stability and resilience, reduce erosion and sedimentation, enhance management of natural and productive land and waterways and the sustainability of agriculture.

Applications for Round 2 Landcare Action Grants close on 31 March. For the application form, guidelines and further information go to the TFGA website or you can contact Council's NRM Facilitator, Polly Buchhorn, for local support.

St Helens Tip-Shop

The St Helens Tip-shop has had a make over! With growing interest in our community around reusing and recycling, the demand on the St Helens Tip-shop has grown!

To make room for more stock, Council worked with the volunteers at the Tip-shop and built an addition that essentially doubles their floor space.

Council also did some external works around the building, installed ceiling fans and upgraded the electrics.

These works mean that there is more space to display items and a much nicer working environment for the hardworking volunteers from the St Helens Hospital Auxiliary.

Make sure you drop-in and check out the bargains!

Bushfire tax relief

The Break O'Day area, (Postcodes 7214, 7215 and 7216) has been declared by the Australian Government as Bushfire affected. This means that any lodge-ments or payments including income tax, activity statement, self-managed super fund (SMSF), fringe benefits tax (FBT) and excise return lodgments, and their associated payments, won't be due until 28 May 2020. For more information visit ato.gov.au.



Stonehaven Cup comes to St Helens

From January 12 – January 17 you may have noticed some green and white sails around Georges Bay. This was the 13 strong fleet of the competitive sailing event, The Stonehaven Cup. The Stonehaven Cup is an annual

sailing event and what a privilege it was for St Helens to host the 92nd event. A huge congratulations to all the competitors and organisers for sharing this spectacular event with us. It sure was a sight to see!

Message from TasWater: Water restrictions

TasWater is taking action to protect drinking water supplies across much of the state and to manage the uncertainty around rainfall in the immediate future.

As part of this, TasWater implemented water restrictions to the Break O'Day council area until the end of March this year.

These areas include St Marys, Stieglitz, St Helens, Fingal, Mathinna.

Scamander was initially placed on Stage 1 water restrictions but has since been escalated to Stage 3 restrictions. For those areas on Stage 1 water restrictions, TasWater is asking residents to adhere to restriction guidelines including only using manual water systems from 6am to 8am, and 8pm to 10pm, automatic watering systems from midnight until 4am.

TasWater is also asking residents to not hose down concrete, paving or other hard surfaces for general cleaning purposes unless it is a health and safety hazard.

It is hoped Stage 1 water restrictions will lead to a 25 per cent reduction in non-essential water use.

Scamander residents, who are on Stage 3 water restrictions, have been among the hardest hit by these restrictions in

Tasmania and have been commended by TasWater for their compliance to their restrictions.

For Scamander, Stage 3 water restrictions require residents to only water gardens on allocated days, not use automatic water systems and only wash car windows, lights, mirrors, registration plates and remove spots and other marks.

The aim of Stage 3 water restrictions is to reduce non-essential water usage by 75 per cent.

When it comes to water saving tips, TasWater has a number of conservation suggestions which are listed on our website.

Some of these include brushing your teeth with the taps off, using the half flush function on your toilet, washing one load of clothes a week and reducing showers to four minutes or less.

Customers are also asked to check their house for dripping taps, leaking toilets and leaking pipes which may lead to the wastage of water.

Please visit the TasWater website at www.taswater.com.au for any information on the water restrictions, water saving tips and how to get in contact with the TasWater team.

What's On

International Women's Day Luncheon 6 March

12pm - 2pm Parkside Bar and Kitchen.
\$50 per person (2 Courses). Tickets via trybooking.com and search for TWIA-IWD

St Helens Game Fishing Comp 7 - 8 March

Details to be advised, keep an eye on the St Helens Game Fishing Facebook page.

Fingal Valley Festival 14 March

An annual event featuring coal shoveling, music, yard dog trails, bike show and more. See their Facebook page for more information.

Dragon Trail MTB 3 Day staged race 26 March

Three days of MTB racing. Day 1 takes in 45km of Blue Derby Trails, Day 2 the Bay of Fires Trail and Day 3 will be spent on the St Helens trails.

Anzac Day Fun Run 25 April

Run starts at 2pm and includes a 10, 5, and 2 km run or walk. Registrations open on the day at 12noon.

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.

Welcome to our new Trail Ambassadors

St Helens MTB Trails have a new Silver Trail Ambassador and a new BFF!

We would like to officially welcome to the St Helens MTB family, Blue Seas Holiday Accommodation as our latest Silver Trail Ambassador and the Blue Derby Pods Ride as our newest BFF.

Welcome and thank you for your support! If you would like to know more about our Trails Ambassadors check out the St Helens MTB trails website.



Blue Seas Holiday Villas

Scamander

Tasmania

Capital Works Projects - February

- Fingal crews have been undertaking works on the St Marys Rivulet. This is part of the St Marys Flood mitigation works and we have been working with property owners in the area.
- Maintenance grading of Ansons Bay Rd is underway with North Ansons Bay Rd completed. NOTE: Grading works are extremely difficult in dry conditions and we appreciate our community's understanding of this.
- Maintenance grading of Irish Town and Upper Scamander Rd has been completed
- Works crews have been kept busy with general town maintenance due to our summer events calendars. We like our towns to make a good impression on visitors!
- Scamander footpath work has commenced
- Reconstruction works at Talbot Street, Fingal and pavement rehabilitation works in Brown Street are underway.
- St Marys playground will be closed from 24 February for approximately a week while the equipment is painted. These works are weather permitting.

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.

Weed of the month- ?



The weed you don't know, don't have yet or has just arrived but remains unnoticed, is arguably more important to control than those you do have and know.

Prevention, and quick action to eradicate new incursions is far more cost effective than the years of costly

control work to contain and eradicate a weed. The two golden rules are: Be on the lookout for unusual plants and practice good hygiene and biosecurity to prevent them spreading.

There are many Declared and other weed species not yet known in Break O'Day maybe even on your own land.

Some are a serious threat to our land, agricultural and other economic productivity, landscapes, recreation and the natural habitat of wildlife.

You can find out more about weeds in our area on our website under Our Environment, Weed Management.

E-waste collection has environmental impact

Congratulations to all those residents who continue to do the right thing by ensuring their waste items end up in the right places! Sometimes just a little bit of extra time is all that is needed to sort your waste before heading to the tips and ensuring items are placed in the right areas. We don't always get feedback on how well we are doing so it was nice to receive the following information from ANZRP (Australia New Zealand Recycling Platform).

During 2018/2019 22,014 tonnes of in-scope e-waste was recycled by ANZRP, this included 8,530 kilograms collected at the BODC, St Helens Waste Transfer Station this is equivalent to:

- **Planting 153 trees¹**
- **383 days of household electricity use²**
- **93 days of household water use³**
- **Removing 14,466km of old diesel truck travel.⁴**

¹Based on estimate of 15 trees storing 1 t CO₂e as provided by Carbon Neutral (<https://carbonneutral.com.au/faqs/>) ²Based on 327MJ of energy per Australian household and per day in FY17, using Australian Bureau of Statistic data (ABS 4604 and ABS 3236) ³Based on 559 litres per day and per Australian household in FY17, using Australian Bureau of Statistic data (ABS 4610 and ABS 3236) ⁴Based on an EURO3 diesel truck emission as modelled in ecoinvent 3.5

St Helens History Room wishes everyone a
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Visit the St Helens History Room to
view the **Story of "Shackleton"**

Now until February 2020

This exhibition is courtesy of
The Australian National Maritime Museum



AUSTRALIAN
NATIONAL
MARITIME
MUSEUM

MU
SEA
UM

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