

**Next Council Meetings:**  
**20 March and 17 April 2023 at 10am in the Council Chambers**

## From the General Manager - John Brown

Access to medical services in our local area is really important to our community and we must do everything we can to keep what we have. Over the last few months the St Marys community has become increasingly concerned about losing their local, and much loved GP, Dr Cyril Latt. This is a vital issue in our community and we have been pursuing the need for greater support for Dr Latt from both the Federal and State. We will continue to do all we can to assist the community and Dr Latt.

The current national GP shortage puts additional pressure on GP services in rural and isolated communities with services stretched to the limit and breaking point. The system needs to change quickly to ensure that GP services are sustainable in communities such as ours.

It was pleasing to see that the State Government has advertised for a supporting Doctor for the St Marys Health Centre last weekend and we hope this position is filled on a permanent basis as a matter of urgency. In the meantime the State Government needs to put the critically needed support in place on a temporary basis.

GPs who choose to work in rural communities must be supported and encouraged to stay. The community also has an important role to play and that is to ensure our local GPs have the opportunity to achieve a work/life balance. They need to be able to spend time with their family and have a break. Dr Latt needs support to fill the gaps both at the doctor's clinic and the accident and emergency department – continuing as it is now is not sustainable no matter how passionate and dedicated you are. The addition of a second GP will mean a roster system so responsibilities are shared meaning, both Dr Latt and the new doctor will be able to find more of a work life balance, which incidentally is one of the main reasons people want to move to our area.

## Event aims to connect and increase volunteering in Break O'Day



Some of Break O'Day's volunteers with Council staff at the Volunteer Strategy Launch last year.

In 2022 community volunteers, Break O'Day Council and Volunteering Tasmania worked together to research and co-design a Volunteering Strategy for Break O'Day. The strategy aims to promote a strong culture of volunteering and support volunteer organisations to access all they need to thrive and sustain volunteer involvement into the future.

To make it easier for volunteer groups and new volunteers to connect, Council has set up a webpage that hosts a range of volunteer resources. Under My Community on the Break O'Day Council website, you can find the Volunteering Strategy, guides and templates for volunteer organisations, advertised volunteer opportunities in our community and more.

If you are a volunteer group, or interested in finding out more about volunteering in Break O'Day come along to a Meet and Greet in St Helens on

Thursday 16 March, 11am-1pm at the St Helens Foreshore. Council will provide a light lunch and all are welcome.

We know volunteers are the life blood of our community and we are incredibly grateful to everyone who donates their time, skills and services to help our community thrive. Did you know that the weekend markets, Christmas parades, athletics summer carnival, the History Room, Visitor Information Centre, Neighbourhood Houses and Online Access Centres all rely on volunteers?

If you love Break O'Day and our wonderful community, why not donate a small amount of your time to give back. No matter what your interests are, there will be an opportunity for you so check out the volunteering webpage, [www.bodc.tas.gov.au/community/volunteering/](http://www.bodc.tas.gov.au/community/volunteering/) and come and say hello on Thursday 16 March.

## Future of Local Government Review Update

Council has just submitted their second submission to the Future of Local Government Review board. We have asked several questions of the board with the most important being to ask that a similar review of State Government agencies is also included. Council's often have projects held up by the state's approval processes. Some of these projects are really important to the community and we end up in

the firing line when we cannot deliver them, even though it is beyond our control.

We would like to thank all those community members who took the time to come along to the Board's consultation session in St Helens on 8 February.

If you would like to have your say, head to the Future of Local Government Review website.

## Sustainability focus – Water refilling stations for Break O'Day

Break O'Day Council and its community know how lucky they are to live in such a naturally beautiful area and they are committed to doing all they can to ensure it is protected for future generations.

Late last year BODC introduced a Single Use Plastic Policy which, sees single use plastics banned from Council owned land and buildings.

Water bottles are one of the planet's biggest plastic pollutants, it is estimated that 80% of plastic bottles end up in landfill where they take more than 1000 years to break down. The good news is, they are also one of the easiest plastic products to remove from the waste stream. Many people are already doing this by taking their own water bottles with them and refilling them where ever they go.

To ensure the community and visitors are able to refill their water bottles, the Council partnered with TasWater

to provide the community with water refilling stations that Council has now installed. Taswater provided the council with three water refill stations, one at the Scamander River Mouth, one in the Bendigo Bank Community Stadium and the third at the St Marys Community space.

"By installing these water stations we are ensuring that our community has the option to take their own bottles and refill them," Mayor Mick Tucker said.

"It also gives us the chance to have a much bigger conversation about how small changes at an individual level can shape the future for us all."

Both stations at St Marys and the Stadium are wall mounted and provide both a drinking and water bottle refilling options. The one located at Scamander is freestanding and also features a dog water bowl.

## The National Epilepsy Line - Free Call

The National Epilepsy Line is a free phone, email and telehealth service delivered by specialist, trained and supportive epilepsy nurses. Whether your question is about understanding your epilepsy or medications, managing your seizure triggers, first aid for seizures, or how your epilepsy impacts your daily life, there is no

question too small. Simply call 1300 37 45 37 or email [epilepsy@epilepsy.org.au](mailto:epilepsy@epilepsy.org.au) or book an appointment online. The National Epilepsy Line is delivered by Epilepsy Action Australia with funding from the Australian Government.

For more information visit [www.epilepsy.org.au](http://www.epilepsy.org.au)

## IN BRIEF

### Find a range of FAQs on our website

Did you know that we have a range of frequently asked questions for planning and building on our website? To name a few: Onsite waste water (Septic), How do I lodge a DA, Fences, Visitor Accommodation, Caravan Licences and more.

Head to our website and click on the 'My Property' tab and look under Building and Plumbing and Planning.

### Pumptrack update

We have now established two working groups including community members to help Council design two pumptracks. One will be mountain bike dedicated and be built at the flagstaff Trailhead in St Helens. The second will be a multi-discipline (suitable for scooters as well as bikes) and will be built on the St Helens foreshore area near the playground.

We have started consulting local students around what they would like the new pumptrack to look like. If you would like to have your say use the QR code below to take the survey.



SCAN THE QR CODE TO TAKE THE ST HELENS PUMPTRACK SURVEY

### Bay of Fires Art Prize - Now Open

The Bay Of Fires Art Prize is fast approaching again and applications for the Youth Art Prize, main Art Prize and Local Art Prizes are now all open. You can find more information on how to enter as well as what activities and events will be available on their website - [bayoffireswinterartsfestival.com](http://bayoffireswinterartsfestival.com)

# Live well Live long

**Thursdays  
10.30am – 12.30pm  
4 May – 8 June  
2023**

St Marys Community  
Health Centre  
Gardiners Creek Rd  
St Marys

**FREE  
six week  
program**

**stay healthy & independent**

**For over 65s**

Find out more or book  
your place 6387 5555

Call Lynn Arthur  
St Marys Community Health Centre

- ♥ Happy feet
- ♥ Mind your mind
- ♥ Eyes & ears
- ♥ Keep active
- ♥ Manage your meds
- ♥ Eat well for less
- ♥ My Aged Care



## Draft Township Plans - Ready for your feedback

We have now released three Draft Township Plans for community feedback. The Draft Township Plans include; Binalong Bay, Falmouth and Scamander. You can find these plans on our website under My Community/Community Engagement.

To have your say on these plans read through them and then send us an email detailing what you agree with and what you would like to see changed.

Feedback is due by 13 March and can be emailed to [admin@bodc.tas.gov.au](mailto:admin@bodc.tas.gov.au). Once we have received your feedback we will review the plans. The revised plans will then go back to Council for formal endorsement.

These plans are used to help inform Council decisions on funding projects and activities across the municipality

so it is really important that you, the community are happy with these plans and that they represent how you see your community.

This year, we have also included a vision and legacy statement for each community. These were developed based on community feedback and represent an overall vision for each township. These statements are important for Council as they help us understand the characteristics of a community and how they see their communities now and in the future.

You can see a complete report on how we developed these statements as well as what ideas were put forward by the community on our website under My Community / Community Engagement / Township Plans / Community Engagement Survey Report.



You can find the Draft Township Plans on our website under [www.bodc.tas.gov.au/community/community-consultation/](http://www.bodc.tas.gov.au/community/community-consultation/)

## WHAT'S ON

### From Heartache to Hope

**6 March**

A free information session about loss and grief. Held at the St Helens Football Club from 6:30 - 8pm. Contact the St Helens Neighbourhood House for more information.

### Questacon Circus

**7 March**

The Questacon Science extravaganza is coming to the St Helens, Bendigo Bank Community Stadium. The event will be held between 4pm - 7pm. Bookings are essential. Find booking and more information on their website, [www.questacon.edu.au](http://www.questacon.edu.au)

### Author Chat - Tasmania Reads

**8 March**

Held at the St Helens Library at 10:30am. Join local author Garry Richardson as he chats about his writing process.

### Women of the Valley

**8 March**

Fingal Neighbourhood House is running free workshops to celebrate International Womens Day at the St Marys Town Hall. Contact Rebecca for more information - 6374 2344.

### Volunteering Meet and Greet

**16 March**

Discover and connect with volunteers and volunteer organisations. Held on the St Helens Foreshore from 11am - 1pm. All welcome with light lunch provided.

### Live well - Live Long

**4 May - 8 June**

This free six week program will be run from the St Marys Community Health Centre and provides information and activities aimed to help you stay healthy and independent. To find out more information or book your place, please call Lynn on 6387 5555.

### 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.

## Can you help your community?

Are you an experienced driver? Are you willing to volunteer one or more hours a week of your time to help others in our community get their licence?

If so, the Get in2 Gear program needs you.

The Learner Driver Mentor Program is a Tasmanian Government and Council funded program that supports community members who are having difficulty getting their licence. If you would like to join our Learner Driver Mentors, please contact Jenna on 63767900



# GET IN2GEAR

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

Email  
[admin@bodc.tas.gov.au](mailto:admin@bodc.tas.gov.au)

## Council Works Reports

- North Ansons Bay Road - Road reconstruction in preparation for sealing - UNDERWAY.
- Ansons Bay Road - Sealing north of Boss's Creek - COMPLETE
- Major digouts north of Priory on Ansons Bay Road in preparation for resealing - UNDERWAY
- St Columba Falls Landslip
  - Section 1 - COMPLETE.
  - Section 2 - UNDERWAY
  - Section 3 - SCHEDULED
- Town Maintenance all areas. Work Crews are trying to keep on top of the growth due to the wet sunny weather. - UNDERWAY.
- Young Street, St Helens Footpath, around 50% complete - UNDERWAY
- Four Mile Creek Playground Repainting and maintenance - SCHEDULED 6 March (playground will be closed for one week.)
- Flood Repairs Scheduled this month
  - Irish Town Road
  - Davis Gully Road



Pictured above: Road works at Irishtown Road.

Pictured below: Young Street footpath works



## DOG STATISTICS 10/12/2022 - 25/01/2023

Urban Patrols = 13  
Beach Patrols = 27  
Infringements = 2  
Unregistered Dog = 2  
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.dpipwe.tas.gov.au](http://www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au)



## Dog Walking in St Marys - Let's get the facts

Council has been hearing and seeing a lot of mis-information about where people can walk their dogs in St Marys so we thought we would set the record straight.

Under Council's current Dog Management Policy dogs are banned from sports grounds and golf courses. The Tasmanian Dog Control Act 2000 also restricts dogs from sports grounds. These spaces are meant to be for the whole community and it is up to the whole community to use these spaces responsibly and respectfully.

One of the biggest reasons dogs are banned from sports grounds is that unfortunately, not every dog owner is a responsible dog owner. Irresponsible dog owners don't keep their dogs under control in public spaces and they don't pick up after their dogs.

The St Marys Golf course is passionately maintained by dedicated volunteers and it is not fair to expect them to have to clean up after irresponsible dog owners.

Dogs are allowed to walk around the

St Marys Pacing track but they must be under effective control. Effective control means you can have your dog off-lead but your dog must be close to you and responsive to your commands. This means that you cannot just let your dog run wherever it wants, it must be under your control.

Council did have plans to build an off-lead dog exercise area in St Marys however, the community does not seem to be happy with the plans so we have paused construction for now.

The location for the St Marys dog exercise area was decided through comprehensive community consultation in 2018 – when the Dog Management Policy was reviewed.

In order to construct a dog exercise area we need to find suitable land owned by us and then go through the process of legally declaring this area. This means that starting again will mean long lead times but we are committed to finding a solution that the community is happy with.

## WEED MANAGEMENT

**St Helens Aerodrome** - Thistles, Spanish heath, fleabane  
**St Helens WTS** - Multiple weed varieties: Foxglove, thistles, hemlock capeweed, broom, caper spurge, broadleaf, mullein  
**St Marys** - Broadleaf, Spanish heath,

gorse  
**Binalong Bay** - Thistles, mullein, blackberry, broadleaf, hemlock  
**Ansons Bay Road** - Broadleaf, Spanish heath, thistles  
**Pyengana Quarry** - Thistles, Spanish heath, blackberry, hemlock, foxglove