

From the General Manager - John Brown

In this month's update, I want to address a few ongoing matters that hold significance within our community.

Firstly, the stability of St Marys Pass is often overlooked when it operates smoothly. We are actively engaged with the Department of State Growth to expedite the exploration of an alternative route. The latest update indicated that a consultant was expected to be appointed before Christmas to undertake this crucial task. Rest assured, we are committed to ensuring that the process involves thorough discussions with both Council and the community. Our stance is clear – St Marys township must not be bypassed by any new route, and we are confident that alternatives bypassing St Marys are not practical.

Additionally, investigations into the feasibility of an Aquatic Centre in the Break O'Day area are in the initial stages. The working group is finalising the consultant's brief for the feasibility analysis. Once approved by the Council in the coming months, we will commence the process of engaging a consultant for this essential work. Community engagement will play a pivotal role throughout this project.

On another note, we are actively progressing strategies outlined in the Recreational Trails Strategy and Georges Bay Activation Strategy from the past couple of years. Our focus is on bringing some of these projects to a 'shovel ready' stage, ensuring their readiness for funding opportunities when they arise and inclusion in our Capital Works Program.

Celebrating Community Champions at the Australia Day Awards



Young Citizens of the Year : Helayna McGiveron, Etta Cornelius and Sienna McGiveron



Citizen of the Year: Ann Marie Blunt

On Australia Day, the Portland Hall was filled with community pride as Council and the community celebrated and recognised the achievements of some of our hardworking and dedicated community members.

This year our Australia Day Ambassador was Mr Kim Smith, a retired Police Officer who has made significant contributions to his own community. He has also won awards for his contribution to Outreach for reducing violence and offences. Mayor Tucker said it was a privilege to have Kim attend our event. "Kim has done some amazing things for the Tasmanian community and hearing his stories, it's hard not to be inspired."

At the event, Mayor Tucker with the assistance of our Australia Day Ambassador, Kim Smith awarded the Australia Day Awards to nominated members of our community. The Young Citizen of the Year Award was presented to Etta Cornelius, Sienna McGiveron and Helayna McGiveron. Each one of them volunteers in various

roles in their community. They also came together to organise biannual beach clean-up sessions. This year the Australia Day Citizen of the Year Award was presented to Ann Maree Blunt. Ann Maree has helped the youngest of our community through to the eldest. She has advocated for the youth in our area, is the founder of the establishment of the St Helens Netball Association, foster carer for children within her own home, key member in establishing Little Athletics, a driver for meals on wheels and mentoring our young people at the St Helens District High School. Ann Maree has also shared her teaching skills and volunteered at Outback Stations teaching young children.

CONTINUED OVER



Mayor's Award was presented to Nicki Treloggen

Nicki Treloggen received the Mayor's award this year. Nicki enjoys working with young people, providing them with the opportunity to play Statewide junior netball and more recently brightening our community at Christmas time. This year we awarded the Break O'Day Municipal Excellence Award to Christine Treloggen. Christine has always been active in our community from making a boiler of soup for a fund raiser to organising a fundraising event for a number of community organisations. Since Christine's retirement she has not slowed down, through her position on the hospital auxiliary she now contributes to the daily management of the tip shop. Christine is currently a



Break O'Day Municipal Excellence Award was presented to Christine Treloggen

Board member on the newly formed Thrive Childcare Centre, a member of the Break O'Day Festivities Committee and a member of the East Coast Aquatic & Wellbeing Centre committee.

"The Australia Day Awards are a real highlight for me every year as we get to really celebrate those in our community who go above and beyond," Mayor Tucker said.

"I am so proud of what our little community can achieve and I have never been prouder of my community or to be an Australian as I am on Australia Day." Congratulations to all our winners and nominees on their well-deserved recognition.

The Responsible Gardener - Agapanthus

Please keep your agapanthus under control. This very popular garden plant is easy to grow, maybe too easy. Too many are escaping gardens and becoming a weed problem.



Agapanthus

Seeds are spread by wind and infestations occur from dumped garden waste (after it has started to take over the garden bed).

It is a serious threat to bushlands as its roots and leaves smother other plants, prevent the regeneration of trees and shrubs and displace animals that depend on the habitat.

It is flowering beautifully now but you can help by deadheading them (removing flowers) before seeds are ripe and blow away.

Also please round up garden escapees and dispose of seed and dug plants responsibly.

IN BRIEF

Expressions of interest are open for the Economic Development Strategy

The Council is currently seeking expressions of interest for a new Economic Development Strategy. The Council envisions a strategy that not only fosters economic activity and sustainable growth but also embraces a holistic approach, prioritising community well-being. The community is at the heart of economic development and we want to develop a strategy that caters to community and ensures economic growth in the region reflects community values. Submissions close 1st March, 2024.

Rabbits breeding like rabbits

The rabbit population has grown again this summer. Keeping them out of your garden and property can be hard and we need to respect the welfare of animals. Shooting and poisoning might be options in rural areas but in townships safe options are limited. Biological control diseases present in the environment will hopefully, with the right conditions, work to decrease local rabbit populations soon.



RabbitScan can help Tassie's rabbit population.

You can help by recording rabbits and any damage they do on the national 'RabbitScan' map to inform ongoing rabbit control programs. For a link to RabbitScan and more information see our rabbit webpage at www.bodc.tas.gov.au/environment/land-management/

Latest History Room Exhibition

The latest local exhibition at the St Helens History Room is titled 'Family, Friends, Fishing and Fun' drawing on archival images from historic events held during summer in St Helens. Everyone can relate to historic holidays spent at St Helens and the St Helens History Room has drawn on its own archives to celebrate another summer season.

Particular thanks to Pip Buchanan and her personal family history on the Cunningham family, the Hill family on fishing achievements and Sietske Hume for her contribution to the display. Available for viewing until March 2024.



The new 'Family, Friends, Fishing and Fun' exhibition

Seymour Community Action Group

The Seymour Community Action Group has worked hard in 2023 and we wanted to share some good news about what they have been up to. The group have been very active in their restoration efforts to rid the area from gorse and other weeds and restore the landscape to its natural state. They have been successful in completing their Environmental Management Plan for Seymour and the Parks and Wildlife Regional Manager North endorsed their Gorse Eradication Strategy for the Seymour Wetlands. There have been a number of businesses and people volunteer to help tend to the trees and deal with the gorse, from slashing to spraying including the

Council's weed team. At a Landcare conference, the group were offered free spraying services at Seymour in return for help across the fence at Chain of Lagoons. A great example of the community working together. With the help of seed collection and propagation workshops, they managed to plant another 100 native trees grown from locally collected seeds. This will hopefully result in an ongoing supply of local trees for the Wetland area. We would like to thank the volunteers and supporters of the Seymour Community Action Group for their efforts and contribution in shaping Break'O Day.

2024 St Marys Summer Celebration

St Marys Summer Celebration was a hit for a second year in a row. Break O'Day Regional Arts (BODRA) organised this event that hosted family friendly fun, great entertainment and local stalls. There was great food, market stalls, free activities and snacks for the kids, a free workshop kindly held by One Voice Break O'Day Choir, local band Smooth Operators played all your

favourite music and there was plenty of summertime.

Funds raised will go to BODRA society and other arts projects.

BODRA would like to thank everyone who came along and supported the 2024 St Marys Summer Celebration and thank everyone who contributed to make this day a success and look forward to doing it all again next year.

**By the light of the moon, by the
light of a star,
people love you the way you are.**
-Ilah-Rose

WHAT'S ON

Impacts of the George River cutting a new course over its floodplain – 9 February

Presentation of preliminary impact assessment finding at 4pm Friday in Council Chambers and online.

Email Council for a link to join by video.

The report and information to comment on will also be available on our Community Engagement webpage www.bodc.tas.gov.au/community/community-consultation/
Kentish Regional Clinic Inc - Training - February 23

Providing an inclusive practise and community for LGBTIQ+ people, personal and professional development.

FREE training at Break O'Day Child and Family Learning Centre from 9.30am-12.30pm. Please contact Fiona on 6376 7172. Child minding is available for children 0-5 years.

FREE day of Netball activities - February 24

Come along for a day of fun with the NetSetGo Clinic being run for 5-10 year olds at 11.45am-12.45pm or watch the Cavs take on the Suns at 1pm and 3pm. Even get a photo taken with the SSN Trophy as it tours the country. Saturday on February 24 at Tully Street Courts and stadium, St Helens.

Laurel House - Community Conversation - 27-28 February

Join Laurel House for a conversation and FREE training about sex, consent and preventing harm for everyone's wellbeing. The session will go for 1.5 hours and food will be provided.

27 February St Helens at 2pm or 6pm.

28 February St Marys at 10am.

28 February Fingal at 2pm.

To book your spot email nita.joy@laurelhouse.org.au

St Helens Workshop - 2 March

Take home a new shade and skills to refurbish all your shades. Fun, easy, creative and rewarding. 11am-2pm at Portland Hall.

Bookings essential via website:

www.shadesofdistinction.com.au

International Women's Day Lunch - 8 March

Come celebrate and embrace equity 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

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

- Road maintenance on North Ansons Bay Road is underway.
- Grading activities on Ansons Bay Road and old highway Seymour.
- Flood eradication work has been completed on Upper Scamander Road – future maintenance grading to be undertaken.
- Contractor engaged to undertake roadside drainage and culvert cleaning on sealed section of Upper Scamander Road, prior to asphalt deformation works.



Flood repair of Upper Scamander Road

weedSCAN



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/

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

Email
admin@bodc.tas.gov.au

DOG STATISTICS
8/06/2023 - 5/07/2023

Urban Patrols = 7
Beach Patrols = 7
Infringements = 0
Unregistered Dog = 0
Impounded dogs = 1

Weed of the month - African boxthorn

African boxthorn is a tough woody weed with sparse small leaves guarded by dangerous sharp spines, which can get through the soles of shoes. Its white flowers are followed by bright orange-red berries which are spread by birds. It is often found where birds perch and roost, along fence lines, under trees, and rock out crops. African boxthorn displaces native vegetation, invades pastures and provides protective habitat for animals, including rabbits. African boxthorn is a Declared Pest in Tasmania and is found in numerous areas in the Break O'Day area. Young plants can be pulled or dug; larger ones

require mechanical help. Herbicides can be used, but its toughness and light leaf cover mean follow-up treatment is needed. Cut and paint methods are often used but taking great care with the spines. Be sure to return and control any new seedlings and reshooting from roots.



OFF-LEAD DOG EXERCISE PARK INFORMATION SESSION

Council is reviewing our Dog Management Policy and Dog Management Zones which is required every five years. As part of this review we will be considering Off-lead exercise areas for St Marys.

DATE: WEDNESDAY 21 FEBRUARY

TIME: 5PM-6:30PM

LOCATION: ST MARYS HALL

Join Council staff at this information session where we will:

- Discuss options for a off-lead areas in St Marys
- Discuss the pros and cons of potential locations
- Listen and gather feedback from community

Your feedback at this session will help inform Council as it considers revisions to its Dog Management Policy, including town dog exercise facilities. The Draft Dog Management Policy will then be released for public comment and submissions.

DIGITAL ADVERTISING 101

Understand how paid digital marketing can work for you

Tue 13th Feb | St Helens

For more information or to register visit:
<https://events.humanitix.com/digital-advertising-101>

THE VAN
DIEMEN
PROJECT

Break O'Day
COUNCIL

DIGITAL SOLUTIONS
Australian Small Business
Advisory Services