

From the General Manager - John Brown

Have you ever heard the old saying "Our future is in our hands." When talking about the Future of Local Government Review, which has now been going for over 12 months, I hope this saying is true.

Just prior to Christmas, the Local Government Board released their Options Paper. Whilst it is not the most riveting piece of reading for the community, it is a really important piece of work that will shape how our area is represented in the future as well as what is expected of us, your local Council.

One of the options the Board are considering is structural reform, this means amalgamations and boundary adjustments as well as potential changes to the services councils deliver. It has been 30 years since the last round of 'structural reform' and the way we do business now has changed. If you have thoughts on what the future of local government should look like then make sure you take the opportunity to have your say by attending the upcoming public meeting or visiting the Future of Local Government Review website.

At a Council level we have put our thoughts forward at every stage of the process to ensure regional Council and our communities' voices are represented - only 50% of Tasmanian Councils have done this.

We want our community to be part of this process so when the locations for the public meetings were released, and there was one at Bicheno and nothing locally, we made a request to the Board to include St Helens. This session is being held on **Wednesday 8th February from 5:30 – 7:30 at the Portland Hall**. I really hope that you go along and share your thoughts with the Board representatives.

Australia Day Award Winners



Australia Day Award Winners; Dana Smith, Leanne Harman (representing Lionel Knight) Diane Harris, Cynthia Musafili Wright (Australia Day Ambassador) Mayor Mick Tucker, Dylan Coker-Williams and Paul Frater.

The Break O'Day community celebrated our area's Australia Day Awards on Thursday 26 January at the Portland Hall.

The award ceremony includes the Australian Citizen and Young Citizen Awards as well as Break O'Day Council's Municipal Excellence and the Mayors Award. The awards were presented by Mayor Tucker and Break O'Day's Australia Day Ambassador, Cynthia Musafili Wright.

"Often the efforts of these dedicated community members can go un-noticed and while we know people don't do these things for the recognition, it is important that as a community we take the time to acknowledge and shine a light on these integral community members."

Australian Young Citizen of the Year Award – Lionel Knight

Lionel is an emerging local first nations elder who goes above and beyond for his community and generously shares his culture and aboriginal history with our community.

Lionel has volunteered for many years at the Child Family and Early learning Centre in St Helens and is an inspiring

young aboriginal man.

Australia Day Citizen of the Year Award – Diane Harris

Diane has been an active volunteer in our community for many years and has given her time and skills to organisations including, St Helens Scouts, Netball, Football, Golf as well as 30 + years as a volunteer with Ambulance Tasmania.

She is well known in the community for her kindness and regularly gives her time to those in the community that struggle with literacy.

She is a quiet achiever who will always have a go and always gets the job done! The recipients of the Break O'Day Municipal Excellence and Mayors Award this year were:

Break O'Day Municipal Excellence Awards: Dana Smith, Paul Frater

Mayor's Special Award: Dylan Coker-Williams.

Congratulations and heartfelt thanks to all the award winners from Council and your community.

International Woodchopping Veteran Series

In January, St Helens played host to an International Woodchopping series. The event saw the Australian and New Zealand Veterans teams compete in three events.

The first was held at the St Helens Athletics Carnival on 21 January, the second was held in Pyengana on the 24 January, with the final event held on the St Helens Foreshore on 28 January. The series was organized by Mayor Mick Tucker who you may or may not

know is a champion axeman himself and competed in all three events alongside his team mates.

At the end of the series the Australian Veterans came out victorious winning all three events.

Congratulations to all those who competed and thank you to all the locals and visitor attendees who really helped create a competitive atmosphere.



Australian Team: David Maine, Henry Maine, Grant Smith, Shane Maxwell Phil Campbell (Capt.) Peter Foster, Gary Adameson, Garry Lovell, Mick Tucker, Craig Wagner. New Zealand Team: Rick Molloy, Willy Abel, Bruce Luddington, Rangil Bowen, Wayne Corbin, Jack Paterson, Andrew Cox, Robbie Brownlee (Capt.) Stu Cunningham, John Waters.



Scamander Flood Mitigation

Through the Tasmanian SES, Council has been successful in securing \$165,000 from the Federal Government's Coastal and Estuarine Risk Mitigation Program. This funding will be used for the Scamander Coastal Hazards Project which will bring technical and scientific expertise to help us look at ways to mitigate and plan for short-term and long term risks posed by the Scamander River.

Some funds will be used for works to help control immediate erosion threats around the River Mouth Park and Dune Street.

It is important to Council that community participate in this project so there will be opportunities to share knowledge of the future coastal risks we all face and how we can plan for them.

We look forward to working with the community and state agencies on the project during 2023.

What's on at the St Helens History Room?

The St Helens History Room is hosting an exhibition of works created by the Break O'Day Stitchers Group. The exhibition, 'A Stitch in Time' showcases beautiful textile works including family heirloom quilts, textile tryptichs and smaller items that celebrate the group's creative capacity and diversity. Now showing through to March 2023.



IN BRIEF

Invite a Councillor

Did you know that you can invite Councilors to your community group meetings?

Maybe you have some questions about a Council project or activity, or perhaps your group has some ideas that they would like to share with Council – if so, why not invite one of our Councillors along.

If you would like to request a Councillor attend your meeting, send an email to admin@bodc.tas.gov.au and if possible, include the topics or questions you have just so they can be prepared.

You can also do the same thing with the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service. If your group would like to invite along a local ranger call the St Helens Field Office on 6387 5510.

Scamander River Project update

Earlier this year, Council were advised by the State Government that \$132,000 in funding to rehabilitate the southern side of the Scamander River was available.

The funding will be used for community projects and includes the area where the old bridge was removed.

Council is working with a community committee to determine how these funds should be spent. The working group met on 30 January to start discussions and seek costings on their ideas.

We will continue to keep the community updated on this project via our website. If you would like to keep up to date on this project, send us an email to admin@bodc.tas.gov.au and we will add you to our email list.

Rates Reminder

A reminder that your third rates instalment or payment is due by 7 February 2023. Please note it can take up to three days for electronic payments to be received by Council, to avoid a penalty or interest being charged, please make your payment a few days earlier. If you would like to register to receive your rates by email head to our website and click on the Rates heading under My Property and the Rates payment tab.

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

Email
admin@bodc.tas.gov.au

Local Protectors - Hooded Plover Wardens

Hopefully we are all now aware that this time of year is nesting and breeding time for shore-birds including the wonderful Hooded Plovers. If you haven't spotted one yet, they are the tiny, white chubby bird with a little black cap you often see at the tideline. It is estimated that Tasmania is home to 20% of the total Hooded Plover population and they are endangered making their protection extremely important.

To keep an eye on these little feathered critters a Hooded Plover Warden Project, supported by NRM North through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program, sees volunteers from our community tasked with observing the birds and doing all they can to ensure they are protected.

The main reason these birds abandon their nests and young is interference from humans or dogs.

The Hooded Plover Wardens reported

that this season there had been some success including:

St Helens area - One chick from three eggs at Grants lagoon /Binalong Bay.

Blanche Beach - Two adults with three juveniles, and another two adults with two juveniles.

These look like they will be fledging (flying) soon and it will be time for them to leave the care of the protective parents.

The Hooded Plover Warden Project continues through to March. We can all do our bit to ensure the protection of these birds including:

- Walking on the wet sand
- Avoiding areas that have been fenced off, and most importantly
- Obey the dog zones - There is signage at most beach entry points and you can find a Dog zone map of our area on our website.

A big thanks to all the beach goers who are doing the right thing.



Pictured: A Hooded Plover and a Hooded Plover nest



WHAT'S ON

BODRA Film Night

11 February

A night for takayna us a nationwide mini film festival which will be held at the St Marys Townhall. Doors open at 5:30 - Gold Coin donation.

Future of Local Government Review- Public Meeting

8 February

Have your say on what the future of Local Government should be. Held at the Portland Hall from 5:30 - 7:30pm.

Business Networking Event

14 February

The St Helens Destination Action Plan (DAP) in collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce will hold a networking event from 6-8pm at the Serpenterium.

Not the Only Gay in Break O'Day

12 February

This annual event will be held at Banksia Hollow, St Marys from 1:30 - 4pm. Enquiries to Nev on 0418 659 781 or Byron on 0408 337 056.

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.



Break O'Day
COUNCIL

COMMUNITY GRANTS

"Individually we are one drop. Together we are an ocean." Ryunosuke Satoro

Do you have a project idea that would benefit the community?

Break O'Day Council's community Grants are now open so make sure you apply!

Eligibility

- All community groups that represent the ratepayers of their township/area are eligible to apply for
- Only local NOT-FOR-PROFIT community groups will be given consideration for funding
- Preference will be given to incorporated organisations with proven capacity to administer
- Community Groups who have not acquitted previous grants, will not be eligible.

FIND OUT MORE ON OUR WEBSITE:

MY COMMUNITY/BREAK O'DAY COMMUNITY GRANTS



Council Works Reports

- Forest Lodge Road - remediation works are scheduled for early February. There will be some traffic impact as the road is closed intermittently.
- St Columba landslip – remediation works are scheduled for Monday 6 February. There will be some traffic impact as traffic lights will be in place. Expect a 10 minute delay.
- Ansons Bay Road - Sealing 800m (continuation of the current sealed section)
- Nth Ansons Bay Road – Sealing from end of the Waste Transfer Station (WTS) for 900m. An alternate route will be provided via Groves Road
- Atlas Drive Works – We are currently undertaking drainage improvements at the base of the roadside retention wall, which includes some stabilisation of the ground in front of the wall. There is traffic management in place. Please look out for signage and workers.

You can find our newsletters online at www.bodc.tas.gov.au/community/news-events/

**GREEN
WASTE
DISPOSAL**
**FREE EVERY SUNDAY FROM
NOVEMBER TO FEBRUARY**
**WASTE TRANSFER
STATIONS INCLUDING:**
**ST HELENS
SCAMANDER
ST MARYS**

Weed Quiz - prizes up for grabs

Do our holiday weed quiz and give your investigative brain some exercise. Identifying the weed you face is the first step to controlling it. (Entries by 5 February).

So you can zoom in and get a closer look at the pictures of the quiz weeds, download the electronic version of our December Newsletter from our website under My Community / News.

HINT: Searching online for images is a big help, but not foolproof. Check leaf, flowers, fruit and other plant details. (By the way, the weed flower pictured here is of one of the incorrect answers.) Send your entries to admin@bodc.tas.gov.au.



Flood Remediation Works

The Council Works Teams are still undertaking clean up works after the October weather event.

The weather saw around 42 roads impacted in varying degrees and includes everything from potholes through to landslips.

Council will be applying for funding for these works through the State and Federal Emergency Relief fund.

This work is occupying much of the Works team's time and we ask the community for patience while some of these projects are prioritised.

St Helens Streetscape works

This year we will start works on the next stage of the St Helens Streetscape works. (You can see the concept drawing on our website under Current Works). We have scheduled these works to commence after Easter and expect that they will take approximately six to eight weeks to complete.

The area of works will be located on the eastern side of Cecelia Street (the main street) starting at the BP Service Station

and ending at the Cecilia Street and Georges Bay Esplanade intersection.

The plan includes realignment of the intersection. We are still finalising the design with State Growth (the managers of the main street). Once this has been finalised updated plans will be made available on our website where you can also follow the progress of the project.

Business Networking Event

The St Helens Destination Action Plan (DAP) Group and the BOD Chamber of Commerce would like to invite local businesses to the first business networking event of 2023 which will be held on 14 February.

Come and relax with some chilled reptiles at The Serpentarium and listen to special guest speaker, Grace Keath from East Coast Tourism as she outlines the 2022 - 2025 Destination

Management Plan for St Helens. Representatives from the DAP group and Chamber of Commerce will also be in attendance and be available for you to have a chat with.

Please RSVP to Melissa Denking, East Coast Tourism's Industry Support Officer by 7 February. Phone: 0402 827 998 or email: admin@eastcoasttasmania.com.au