

**Next Council Meetings:**  
**18 August 2025 and 15 September 2025 at 10am in the Council Chambers**

## From the General Manager - John Brown

If you've ever tried to coax a cat from under a car or stumbled across a furry friend's "gift" on your morning stroll or when you open the back door, you'll know pet management is not for the faint-hearted. At Break O'Day Council, we do our best to keep life harmonious for people, pets and wildlife — though sometimes it feels like we're starring in our own animal comedy.

While we love our furry family members, both cats and dogs can unintentionally cause havoc for local wildlife. Free-roaming cats, even the most pampered tabby, can't resist the thrill of the hunt — and our native birds, reptiles and small mammals often pay the price.

Dogs, too, leave their mark. Bounding along beaches might be great fun for them, but it can disturb fragile shorebird populations like the Hooded Plover and Pied Oystercatcher, who rely on these spaces to feed, nest and raise chicks. Even the most obedient pooch, off lead for "just a moment", can accidentally trample a nest or provide a brief scare meaning the difference between new life and an empty shoreline.

In some parts of our municipality — Weldborough and Scamander in particular — we're not sure if we have a feral cat problem or a feline social club. Reports of roaming cats have increased, with some well-meaning locals providing snacks and encouragement to the neighbourhood "members." Unfortunately, feeding feral cats can turn a few strays into a full-blown furry flash mob.

To tackle this, we've launched workshops, handed out flyers, and pleaded (with minimal dignity) for everyone to own cats responsibly. We have also subsidised microchipping and desexing of their feline companions and Council officers are working with the RSPCA and Parks and Wildlife Service to manage stray and roaming cat problems, to get some separation between feral cat problems in the wild and responsibly owned companion cats kept at home and not breeding.

Let's be real—most dog owners do the right thing, but every now and then, someone needs a gentle nudge. That's why Council likes to start with a chat and a warning if someone's pup is bending (or breaking) the Dog Control Act. We'd much rather work with you than slap on a fine! But if those warnings go ignored, Council isn't afraid to pull out the infringement book—and, if it gets really out of hand, things can wind up in the Magistrates Court. Just ask the folks from a recent case we won—sometimes you have to go the extra mile to keep our community (and its four-legged members) happy and safe.

Managing cats and dogs will always have its challenges, but it's also a shared responsibility. By doing our bit, we can protect the wild heart of Break O'Day while keeping our pets safe, happy and part of the community's story for years to come.

## Scamander Coastal Hazards Project

The first stage of community engagement for the Scamander Coastal Hazards Project kicked off in June with a visit by the consultant team. Over 30 people attended the community workshop, which included conversations with local landholders and stakeholders, as well as the opportunity to take a closer look at the river mouth and the flood and coastal risks in that area.

While the focus was on the Scamander River Mouth and nearby properties, interest extended to areas like Beaumaris—highlighting there are issues all along Break O'Day's coastline. This project will help the community and Council better understand coastal risks, plan for future impacts from erosion, flooding and climate change, and identify better pathways to reduce those risks. To learn more visit [www.bodc.tas.gov.au/council/](http://www.bodc.tas.gov.au/council/)



Photo courtesy of Tanya Greenwood: Mayor Tucker putting on his best reading voice

## Celebrating Early Learning Matters Week at Fingal Play Centre

A special morning tea was held at Fingal Play Centre to celebrate Early Learning Matters Week, bringing together children, families, community members, and local organisations for a morning of fun and connection.

Children and families enjoyed a lovely morning filled with activities like cupcake decorating, games, and story time. A favourite moment was Mayor Tucker's reading of *Where is the Green Sheep?* Community members and staff from local organisations also came along to show their support and celebrate the important role early learning plays in helping children grow, learn, and feel supported.

Early Learning Matters Week 2025 will be held from 18–24 August, offering an opportunity to recognise the value of early childhood education. Break O'Day Council is proud to support early learning initiatives and thanks everyone who helped make the morning tea such a success.

# Tasmanian Rural Doctor of the Year 2025



Photo: Dr Michael Fox

Council is proud to congratulate Dr Michael Fox on being named Tasmanian Rural Doctor of the Year 2025 by the Rural Doctors Association of Tasmania.

This award is a fitting recognition of Dr Fox's dedication, leadership, and commitment to improving rural health

outcomes. Since arriving in St Helens, Dr Fox has played a vital role in our community—not only as a highly respected GP, but also as a passionate advocate for better healthcare services in our region.

Through his work, Dr Fox has helped build a thriving medical practice and educational hub in St Helens, supporting patients while also mentoring the next generation of doctors. His recent efforts to help secure a CT scanner for the St Helens District Hospital highlight his commitment to ensuring our community has access to the care and resources it needs.

Mayor Tucker said, "We are incredibly fortunate to have someone like Dr Fox in our community. This recognition is well deserved, and we sincerely thank him for the care, leadership, and vision he brings to his work every day." Congratulations once again, Dr Fox.

## East Coast Art Trail – Vote Now!

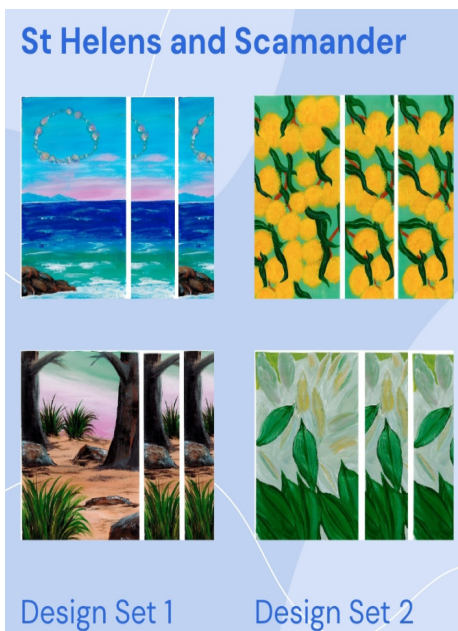
Council is excited to support TasWater's East Coast Art Trail, part of its statewide Asset Art Program—a creative initiative transforming everyday infrastructure into inspiring public art.

TasWater are thrilled to announce the three talented artists selected to bring this project to life from Orford to St Helens are: Judith-Rose Thomas, Melski Mc Vee and Mel Fidler.

Over the coming weeks, these artists will be visiting towns along the East Coast, gathering stories, meeting locals, and drawing inspiration from the places and people that make our region so special.

Each artist has designed artwork for one of three coastal locations—celebrating community, place, and creativity.

The community is now invited to help shape the final artworks by voting for your favourite design concepts. Each



site has two options, and you can vote on just one or all three. Voting closes 10am, Monday 18 August 2025  
Cast your vote here: [www.yoursay.taswater.com.au/](http://www.yoursay.taswater.com.au/)

## IN BRIEF

### IMPORTANT MICROCHIP UPDATE FOR PET OWNERS

A reminder to local pet owners that the HomeSafeID pet register is no longer operational. If your pet is listed there and goes missing, your contact details won't be accessible. To ensure you can be reunited with your pet, please re-register with a recognised registry as soon as possible. You can find more information on the Tasmanian Government website: [www.dpac.tas.gov.au/dog\\_control/micro-chipping\\_faqs](http://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/dog_control/micro-chipping_faqs)

### DON'T MISS YOUR BIN PICK-UP

With recent changes to bin collection days and routes, pick-up times may now vary from week to week on your scheduled collection day. Please make sure your bins are out by 6am to ensure they are collected. Check your updated collection calendar or visit our website at [www.bodc.tas.gov.au/property/waste](http://www.bodc.tas.gov.au/property/waste). Thanks for helping us keep things running smoothly!

### REDACTION & APOLOGY

In the last edition of the Council Newsletter, we incorrectly stated that Sandra French was the President of the Bay of Fires Regional Arts Association. This was an error. Sandra French is the President of the Bay of Fires Winter Arts Committee. We apologise for this mistake.

### SEE A TREE NEAR POWERLINES? HERE'S WHAT TO DO

We often get questions about who's responsible for trimming trees near powerlines – and the good news is, TasNetworks makes it easy to understand.

Their website includes a helpful diagram showing who looks after what when it comes to trees and powerlines. Council isn't responsible for trimming trees under or near powerlines – it's usually up to TasNetworks or the property owner, depending on location.

If you spot a tree too close to powerlines, you can report it directly through the TasNetworks website. It's quick and easy. Visit [www.tasnetworks.com.au](http://www.tasnetworks.com.au) for more information.

**"There is no power for change  
greater than a community  
discovering what it cares about."  
- Margaret J. Wheatley**

# St Helens General Cemetery Plan – Remembrance Garden Works Begin

The St Helens Cemetery is entering a new chapter, with the first stage of works now underway on the planned Remembrance Garden, as part of Council's long-term plan to improve our local cemeteries.

Back in 2014, Council worked with Lange Design to hear from the community and create master plans for the cemeteries at St Helens, St Marys, Fingal, and Mathinna.

The aim of the plans is to turn our cemeteries into more peaceful, garden-like places—where people can feel comfortable, reflect, and remember their loved ones.

We're now pleased to let the community know that Stage 1 of the

St Helens General Cemetery Plan—the Remembrance Garden—is underway. Once finished, this garden will offer a quiet, calm place for remembrance and reflection.

This is an important and sensitive project for our community, and we will continue to keep residents updated as works progress.

Work is expected to start in mid-August and take around 8 weeks to complete, weather permitting. There will be no impact to visitors during this time.

To see the design plans for this project visit [www.bodc.tas.gov.au/council/current-works-2/](http://www.bodc.tas.gov.au/council/current-works-2/) or contact our office.



ST HELENS GENERAL CEMETERY

Remembrance Garden

## Expression of Interest – Break O'Day Chamber of Commerce Secretary

The Break O'Day Chamber of Commerce is seeking Expressions of Interest for the voluntary role of Secretary on the Executive Committee. This is a fantastic opportunity to get involved in the local business community, build valuable networks, and contribute to the region's economic growth. The role is ideal for anyone looking to develop or refresh business and administrative skills that are highly transferrable across a wide range of industries.

Whether you're looking to enter the workforce, return after a break, or simply want to give back to the community, this role offers meaningful experience in meeting coordination, minute-taking, communication, and supporting local initiatives.

No prior experience is necessary – just a willingness to contribute and learn! For more information or to express your interest, please contact: Dilara Bedwell [dilara.bedwell@bodc.tas.gov.au](mailto:dilara.bedwell@bodc.tas.gov.au)

## WHAT'S ON

### The Lighthouse - Every Wednesday

Serving the Break O'Day community, The Lighthouse is a safe place where you can enjoy a free cuppa, hot soup and roll, warm beanies and scarves or a friendly chat. Open every Wednesday, 11am-1pm at the Anglican Hall - 56 Cecilia Street, St Helens.

### Seymour Conservation Area – Monthly Working Bees

Support this restoration project which is restoring Seymour wetlands and flora and fauna. Monthly working bees planting and gorse control. Tools provided. BYO hat, water and gloves. First Saturday of the month. Seymour Conservation Area, Champ St, Seymour. 10-12pm. Contact 0425 232 000 as weather dependent.

### St Helens Orienteering Club - Saturday 9 & 23 August

Come and try orienteering, an adventure in the outdoors. Walk or run, go solo or with friends and family. Two FREE events will be held on 9 August at St Helens Foreshore and 23 August St Helens District High School between 12-2pm.

### Sustainable Living Expo - Saturday 23 August

Interested in sustainability? Keen for hands-on workshops and practical tips? Got a project or business you'd love to share with the community? Come along to the Fingal Valley Sustainability Expo at St Marys Town Hall 10-3pm. Contact Tanya for more information [tanya.greenwood@fvnh.org.au](mailto:tanya.greenwood@fvnh.org.au)

### Referee Training Day - Saturday 30 August

Open to current referees and anyone interested in becoming a referee. Come along, sharpen your skills, and get game-day ready at Bendigo Bank Community Stadium 10-3pm.

### Basketball Clinic - Saturday 30 August

Details coming soon – stay tuned!

### Netball Grand Final - Friday 5 September

Come along and cheer on our local teams! 4– 9pm at the Bendigo Bank Community Stadium, St Helens.

### Artisan Market, St Helens - Sunday 5 October

Come explore the stalls at the Artisan market at Bendigo Bank Stadium, St Helens 10-4pm. Browse a range of handmade goods, local art, crafts, and delicious treats. It's the perfect day out to support local and discover something new.

#### 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

- St Helens Foreshore walkway solar lights installation is underway. Thank you to everyone for their patience.
- Street furniture to be installed in Falmouth
- First of two dog parks in St Marys nearing completion
- Footpath Maintenance Works - From Monday 4 August, footpath repair works will be carried out in front of BODEC, St Helens Post Office, Banjo's Bakery. Works are expected to take approximately two weeks, weather permitting. Pedestrian access will remain open, and only minimal disruption is expected

### RENOVATIONS: ST MARYS SPORTS COMPLEX TOILET & SHOWER BLOCK

This is a notice to advise users of the sporting complex that works will be commencing on Monday 1 September. The works being conducted include new floor and wall coverings, new fixtures and painting where required.

Council expects that at least one shower cubicle and several toilets will be made available at all times so the impact to users and campers is expected to be minimal.

Council apologises for any inconvenience this may cause.

### WEED MANAGEMENT

- **Fingal** - cape weed, Patterson's curse, broadleaf
- **St Helens** - Spanish heath, cape weed, thistles, flat weeds
- **Stieglitz** – broadleaf
- **Scamander** - Spanish heath, pampas, various
- **Beaumaris**- Spanish heath, various

### DOG STATISTICS

**JUNE 2025**

**Urban Patrols = 3**

**Beach Patrols = 4**

**Infringements = 0**

**Unregistered Dog = 0**

**Impounded Dogs = 0**

## Weed of the Month - mirror bush

Mirror bush (*Coprosma repens*) is a low shrub to tree with shiny upper leaf surfaces. It is a common and significant environmental weed in coastal environments, including our offshore islands. Seed is dispersed (often along fences) by birds eating the berries and by garden waste dumping. It can also sprout from stumps and branches touching the ground. Mirror bush is shade tolerant, growing up into a dense canopy that smothers all other vegetation and displacing native flora and fauna. It is very hardy, tolerating salt winds, drought, frost and most

soil types. Small plants can be hand pulled. Cut-stump or spraying with herbicide may be needed for larger plants. Replace any you have in the garden with a native or other safer alternative. Further information on identification and treatment methods can be found on NRE's weed pages: [NRE.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/weeds](http://NRE.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/weeds)



## Help Us Manage Stray Cats – Keep Your Cat Safe, and Don't Feed Strays

If a stray or roaming cat turns up at your place, it might be tempting to put out some food, but feeding stray cats or kittens can be the start of bigger problems for our communities, our pets, and our wildlife.

Stray cats are often not desexed and can start breeding as young as four months old. Feeding them quickly lead to a growing colony.

Strays and cat colonies are likely to carry and spread diseases that can affect you, your pets, livestock and native wildlife (which also suffer from intense predation).

Before feeding stray and roaming cats that come calling:

- Check with neighbours to see if it is someone's owned cat.
- Do you care enough to take it into your home as your own cat? Then do the responsible thing and get the cat desexed, microchipped and checked by the vet.
- Otherwise go to [www.tassiecat.com.au](http://www.tassiecat.com.au) to find out about dealing with roaming cats and requirement for trapping strays, and talk to a cat management facility like Just Cats about rehoming.

Council, the RSPCA and the Parks and Wildlife Service are currently working together in Break O'Day on trapping programs to manage colonies of stray and roaming cats that have built up and reduce the impacts on our communities and environment.

Your pet cat is safest when kept at



home and not allowed to roam. Cats that wander are at risk of injury, disease, getting lost, or getting caught up in local trapping programs. On some land the Cat Management Act provides for any cat seized there to be humanely destroyed.

If your cat is microchipped, it's more likely to be returned to you safely – just make sure your contact details are kept up to date and remember desexing your cat not only prevents unwanted litters, it also improves their health and behaviour. Both are a legal requirement.

Together, we can reduce the number of stray and roaming cats, protect our wildlife, livestock producers and keep all cats – including yours – happy, healthy and safe. Keep an eye out on Council's facebook page for more tips on Cat Management in Break O'Day. For more information visit [www.tassiecat.com.au](http://www.tassiecat.com.au) or our website.