

From General Manager - John Brown

There is no doubt we have been fortunate to sit here in our little 'COVID free bubble' as we watch the other states struggle with lock downs and the rapidity with which the Delta strain spreads.

While it may seem like another world for some of us right now, it is important that we do keep COVID safety at the front of mind. At the end of the day do we really want to be part of the mayhem that we are seeing unfold in Sydney in recent weeks where they are struggling to get any real control over the latest COVID situation?

Watching the significant daily numbers being disclosed and hearing the impact it is having on businesses and the lives of people in general is a sobering thing for us to observe.

Seeing how easily the Delta variant can be transmitted reinforces the need for us to be vigilant and to do our bit however small that might be. Making sure that you are using the Check-in App is one simple way to ensure that if we do end up with cases of COVID, hot spots and who was there and when they were there, will help curb the spread.

Another thing you can do is continue to maintain COVID hygiene practices like keeping 1.5m social distancing, washing your hands regularly, using hand sanitizer, and staying home and getting a COVID test if you feel unwell. Of course another thing you can do is get vaccinated.

It is great to see that the roll out of the Pfizer vaccine is now happening in St Helens which means those wanting to access the vaccine can do so more easily. Potentially it is only a matter of time until once again Tasmania is dealing with a COVID outbreak, as an organisation we continually make sure we have things in place in readiness for another highly disruptive lockdown.

Farewelll to the Old Scamander Bridge



The Old Scamander Bridge as it was known by the locals, is now gone for good.

This bridge has been an icon of the coastal town of Scamander for decades so it is understandable that there were some residents who were devastated to see the bridge go. We thought it would be nice to pay tribute to the bridge by looking back at its history.

The Old Scamander bridge was built in 1936 and was a Truss bridge designed by prominent Tasmanian engineer, Sir Allan Knight.

Sir Allan Knight was born in Launceston and was known as one of Australia's most outstanding engineers. After graduating from the University of Tasmania in Science and Engineering he joined the Public Works Department in 1932 where he was responsible for designing and supervising the building of several major bridges. Other than the Scamander Bridge, Sir Allan Knight was also responsible for the floating bridge across the River Derwent in 1943.

Sir Allan Knight's Scamander bridge

was the first concrete bridge to be constructed over the Scamander River and has stood the test of time remaining in place until its removal this month.

Prior to the concrete bridge, the wide river mouth had proven a challenge for bridge builders over the decades and several timber bridges were lost since white settlement. The first bridge over Scamander River was timber and built in 1856. Unfortunately the bridge collapsed in 1875 when a large herd of cattle were being driven across the bridge.

The second and third bridges were constructed of iron bark and bluegum but unfortunately washed away in floods in 1889 and 1911. Perhaps the most interesting case of the Scamander Bridge collapsing happened in 1913 when, according to the Mercury Newspaper 25 January 1913, "An extraordinary subsidence of the Scamander Bridge occurred last night. The structure broke away from the abutment on the northern side,

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and from the span of the old bridge on the southern side, and dropped sheer down to water level, a distance of about 16 feet. The decking is still intact. There is no way of accounting for the occurrence.” It seems that later the sinking of the bridge was attributed to the piles sinking after a layer of sand below sediment level had been washed away.

Other timber bridges through the decades were also lost to flooding and the timber eating teredo worm. 1929 marks the end for timber bridges and a more reliable solution was sought.

After 1929, a punt was used to cross the river until the new steel bridge was constructed in 1936. This bridge remained in use until 1991 when the new bridge was built on a better alignment across the river.

Below and on the front page are some photos taken by resident George Keri of the last days of the Old Scamander Bridge.

The complete removal of the bridge including concrete piles and abutments as well as the completion of the handrail on the new bridge will be completed by August 6.

COVID Safety

Improve your personal COVID safety and the safety of your community by having your COVID safety kit ready to use.

By continuing COVID-safe behaviours and keeping a few basic essentials on hand we can be ready not just for our current circumstances but for any challenges that come our way.

Your kit should include: Tissues, hand sanitiser, face masks, Check in TAS app ready to use on your phone.

See more at: www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au/covid-safety-kit

*Message from the Tasmanian Government



Burn Brighter - Wood Fire Etiquette

Council has received a number of concerns from residents about wood fire smoke. While this is not something we can enforce, we will be making sure residents have access to information on wood heater etiquette.

We have just set up a new page on our website under My Property called Wood Heater etiquette. On this page you will find links to the state government's Burn Brighter campaign,

helpful videos as well as a fact sheet on burning safely and efficiently. Fact sheets in hard copy can also be collected from the main office at 32-34 Georges Bay Esplanade, St Helens.

Wood heater etiquette is not just about reducing wood smoke but making sure you are getting the most out of your fire. This can save you money in the long run on purchasing wood and flue cleaning.

SCAMS - Tips for spotting a scam

Unfortunately there are a lot of scams around at the moment with perpetrators getting very clever at making their correspondence, whether via phone or email look legitimate.

According to the ACCC's Scamwatch website the majority of scams are currently via phone and include but are not limited to; COVID, attempts to gain your personal information, dating and romance, fake charities, fake investments and more.

The signs to look out for include:

- Someone you don't know contacts you out of the blue
- Someone you've never met in person asks for money
- Someone asks you to pay for something or to give them money through unusual payment methods such as gift cards, wire transfers or

cryptocurrencies

- Someone asks you to pay for something in advance — especially through an unusual payment method
- Someone asks you for personal information, like your bank details or passwords, or access to your computer
- Someone pressures you into buying something or making a decision quickly
- Someone offers you something that sounds too good to be true — like an online shopping deal, a prize for winning a competition, an unclaimed inheritance or an invitation to invest in an 'amazing' scheme.

You can find more information on identifying scammers as well as reporting them on the scamwatch.gov.au website.

IN BRIEF

Disability Action Plan

Did you know that Council has a Disability Action Plan? You can find a copy of the plan under My Council/ Council Strategies/Plans and Documents. Among other things, the Plan mentions the need for Quiet Spaces at public events. Council will now ensure there is a Quiet Space at Council run events and will advocate and assist other event organisers to do the same. Quiet Spaces provide a space for those that need somewhere to retreat to when they feel overwhelmed or over stimulated by the event environment.

Foot paths and the Planning Scheme

Under the Break O'Day Interim Planning Scheme 2013 – Version 17 footpaths and cycle ways are exempt from requiring a permit under the Scheme. This means that if Council footpaths and cycle way development and maintenance fits with this clause we do not require a planning approval.

5.2.10 – minor infrastructure:

"Provision, maintenance and modification of footpaths, cycle paths, playground equipment, seating, shelters, bus stops and bus shelters, street lighting, telephone booths, public toilets, post boxes, cycle racks, fire hydrants, drinking fountains, rubbish bins, public art, and the like by, or on behalf of, the Crown, a council or a State authority."

Expressions of Interest Mechanic Services

Expressions of interest are invited from suitably qualified and experienced businesses to provide mechanical services for Break O'Day Council's fleet of heavy machinery, vehicles and small plant.

The closing time for receipt of Expressions of Interest is 5pm on Friday 20 August 2021.

You can find more information on this position including relevant documentation as well as other employment opportunities on our website under Employment.

"My partner constantly screams at me and always puts me down, telling me I'm useless."

THIS IS VERBAL ABUSE AND IT IS FAMILY VIOLENCE.

Help and support is available.



Contact a specialist service or visit
www.safefromviolence.tas.gov.au
for more information.



Tasmanian
Government



Support services include:

- **Safe at Home Family Violence Response - 1800 633 937**
- **1800RESPECT (1800 737 732)**
- **Men's Referral service to counsel men who use family violence 1300 766 491**
- **LifeLine: 131114**
- **Kids Help Line: 1800 551 800**

Council Works Updates

Medea Cove, St Helens

We will be placing traffic calming and safety measures including signage on Medea Cove Esplanade in the first week of August. The reason for this is that we are seeing people cutting the corner causing safety issues in this area. We propose to do the works in the first week in August.

Terrys Hill Road

Parks and Wildlife have contracted Council to undertake works on Terrys Hill Road including replacement of the Ransom River bridge and some road remediation works.

We anticipate that the bridge will be open to local traffic (residents) Thursday 29 July. Following this Council will undertake road re-sheeting works in the vicinity of the new bridge. This will have minimal disruption and is expected to take two days.

Gardens Road/Lyall Road and Jeannerette Cres Intersections

This project is now complete with sight distance improvement objectives met.

Beaumaris footpath works

The upgrade of the Beaumaris to Scamander pathway is progressing well. Gravel works are expected to be completed at the end of July. Path sealing will be undertaken as part of Council's annual resealing works program in November.

O'Connors Beach Path

Construction activity to commence in August.

Forest Road Intake Bridge, Pyengana

Forest Lodge Road, Intake Hill side opened to traffic on Monday 26 July. This followed significant work to address two landslip events and recent flood damaged road pavement.

We urge anyone using this road to drive to the conditions, the road is steep and narrow and is regularly affected by wet weather.

Ansons Bay and North Anson Bay Roads

Council works crews with additional assistance from a local contractor continue efforts in regrading North Ansons Bay and Ansons Bay roads damaged in recent weather events. Unfortunately with more rain on the way it is expected that the roads

will require additional attention, particularly if people are not driving to the conditions.

Council has signposted the above roads advising motorists that the roads are subject to changing conditions and to drive to those conditions.

Scamander Footpath Works

Council is now waiting on final approval to construct a footpath from Winifred Curtis Drive to the Winifred Curtis Reserve. This will provide pedestrian and cycle access to the Winifred Curtis Reserve. Once we receive final approval we will write to adjoining property owners and use the Current Works section of our website to advise the community of the project.

Road grading in the Valley

The Valley Works crews have been grading roads around St Marys which will be completed by the end August, weather dependant.

Keep up to date on Council Projects on our website: [My Council/Works and Services/Current Works](#)



Pictured above: Works on Forest Lodge Road

Weed Officer Activity

Ansons Bay Road - Spanish Heath & Gorse
Tully St, St Helens - Spanish Heath
Walker St, St Helens - Spanish Heath
Beaulieu St, St Helens - Spanish Heath
Basin Creek Road - Spanish Heath
Stieglitz - Great mullein

Weed of the month Sweet pittosporum



Sweet pittosporum (*Pittosporum undulatum*) is a shrub to tree found in gardens, along fence lines and invading bushland, often near the coast. Native to the eastern mainland it has aromatic leaves with undulating margins and is spread by birds eating its yellow berries with sticky red seeds. It may be valued for screening and shelter, but is a rampant environmental weed that grows up through shade to smother native vegetation it invades.

If you have sweet pittosporum on your land control spreading plants, establish non-invasive alternatives for the garden and in the meantime remove fruit before the birds do.

Seedlings can be hand pulled or dug quite easily. Large plants can be treated with cut-and-paint or drill/frill herbicide application. It is intolerant to fire.

August

FREE entry for all visitors



St Helens History Room

THE OFF
SEASON