

**Next Council Meetings:**  
**15 August and 19 September at 10am in the Council Chambers, St Helens**

## From the General Manager - John Brown

The Tasmanian Government is conducting a review on the future of Local Government. The focus is on what Local Government should be doing in the future. This means some things we do now maybe provided by someone else in the future and it is really important that you have your say on what you think this should look like. The report on the first round of consultation has just been released and there are certainly some interesting things coming though. While this report is not particularly detailed, it does identify key areas that will be further investigated through the review process. One theme that recurs throughout the document is really looking at the efficiency and economy of scale or in other words, looking for efficiencies and cost saving in service delivery. One example given was Waste Collection and whether this would be better delivered by a statewide organisation similar to TasWater with water and sewerage. Importantly there is also a focus on performance reporting which is in effect comparing Councils to each other in key areas to see how we are going. Council will be providing the Review Board with our thoughts on the report and we hope that you too will take the time to have a look and provide your feedback.

For more information including the recent report go to: [www.futurelocaltas.gov.au](http://www.futurelocaltas.gov.au) We also have information on our website under My Community / Community Engagement to help you understand what is going on.

The next stage will start early next year and there is no doubt that there will be some changes to Council boundaries. We have already seen a few instances of Councils coming out and saying what they want in relation to boundaries. As I said earlier, it is really important to get in and have your say, no matter how boring it might seem...

## Festival of Wellbeing 2022 - Planning underway



Pictured above: Attendees at last year's Festival of Wellbeing.

At the first-ever Festival of Wellbeing in Mental Health Week last October we enjoyed a showcase and celebration of things we do in our local community to nurture our wellbeing and learned ways we can support each other. In 2021 our wellbeing project participants created a wonderful event and provided a supportive and kind space for our local community to get involved. We are grateful for the generosity and wisdom of our event organisers last year. They helped us recognise and appreciate the strengths in our community, and to connect with each other. They supported our community champions to host activities that made it feel safe, easy and fun to try new things and to learn about caring for our wellbeing. We are thankful for everything we learned last

year, and for the generous feedback we received which will help us shape this year's festival. Speaking of...

We are now ready and excited to do it all again! We have a fabulous group of new participants in this year's 'Certificate in Creating Wellbeing' training as well as a wealth of wisdom and momentum from last year. This year we are aiming to make Launceston Show Day on Thursday 6 October, our very own Wellbeing Day in Break O'Day. We can't do it without you. Join us in creating this day of celebration, connection, awareness and belonging. Find out how you can be involved at [www.bodc.tas.gov.au/community/health-and-wellbeing/](http://www.bodc.tas.gov.au/community/health-and-wellbeing/) or contact Leah for more information at [wellbeing@bodc.tas.gov.au](mailto:wellbeing@bodc.tas.gov.au) or 0439 826 491.

## Your Rates explained in the Rates Newsletter

By now, many of you should have received your rates notice. This will have come with a four page rates newsletter explaining the charges on your notice, it also features articles on where your rates will be spent and some tips on reducing your household waste. If you haven't already, we

would really recommend you read this. If you do not have a copy of the rates newsletter you can find it on our website under My Property/Rates and under the "How are my rates calculated?" tab or pick one up from the office

# HAVE YOUR SAY

Do you have a minute to share your thoughts with us?

## Community Engagement Updates

### **Community Engagement Strategy**

At the July Meeting, Council adopted the Community Engagement Strategy. We would like to thank all those that took the time to read the draft strategy and provide feedback - this feedback has influenced the strategy. We could not have done this without you! We will now develop a procedure that will be used internally by all staff to make sure the Community Engagement Strategy is embedded in all our communication with you.

### **Marine Facilities Activation Survey**

We have now closed the Georges Bay Activation Strategy Survey – thank you to all those who participated. Staff will now review and collate all information from the survey. We will present this information back to you in a report which we will make available on our website. We will also email a copy to all those that participated in, or showed interest in the project. This information will then be used to develop the strategy which will be presented to the community for feedback. Having a clear strategy in place will ensure we protect what you value about our existing foreshore spaces, as well as ensure future plans for these spaces meet the changing needs of residents and visitors of our beautiful George's bay.

### **St Helens Sports Complex**

We have now worked through all the community input on the St Helens Sports Complex Draft Concept Plan - Thank you to all those who participated. We are now very close to finalising the report which will go to the August Council Meeting. After this, and when it is ready, we will put the report on our website.

We will let you know when we do this by posting on Facebook, updating you in the next newsletter, as well as emailing all those who provided their details for updates during the consultation.

### **Recreational Trails Strategy**

We are currently asking for feedback on the Draft Recreational Trails Strategy. On Friday 22 July we held an online forum on the Strategy, hosted by consultants TRC Tourism. If you were unable to attend, we recorded the session and have put the recording as well as the presentation up on our website. On the website you will also find a copy of the Draft Strategy and questions to consider if you want to provide feedback on the document. Feedback on the Draft will be open until 24 August.

### **Business Survey**

We have now closed our Business Survey – A big thank you to all those that participated. The information that you provided us with will really help us understand what the challenges and opportunities are in our local business community.

This year we included a random draw prize for one of the lucky participating businesses who will receive a \$50 voucher to Raida. This year's winner was 42° South Surf School – Congratulations! Once collated this information will be put into a report and published on our website.

If you missed out on participating and would like to next time, make sure you are on our Business email database. We use this database to send our business community information and updates that are relevant to you and our community. To join the database, please email [admin@bodc.tas.gov.au](mailto:admin@bodc.tas.gov.au) and put

Business Database in the subject line.

### **Volunteering Strategy**

The Co-design group made up of community members, Council Officers and representatives from Volunteering Tasmania – are now finalising community input on the strategy which was gathered through a survey.

This input will help us determine which areas the strategy should focus on as well as consider potential actions.

We have really enjoyed co-designing this strategy with our community and appreciate all the time the group has given to the project.

We look forward to being able to present this plan to the community in the coming months. To celebrate the launch of the strategy we plan on holding an event so keep your eye out on social media and the newsletter for more information.

### **Local Government Reform**

First consultation report is out. The Tasmanian Government commissioned the Local Government Board to undertake a review of the role, function and design of Local Government in Tasmania. The Review will provide the Government with practical, evidence-based recommendations needed to ensure the future needs and aspirations of Tasmanians are met.

After the first round of consultation, the board has now released their first report which you can find [www.futurelocal.tas.gov.au](http://www.futurelocal.tas.gov.au).

**All information on these projects including related documents and links can be found on our website under My Community/Community Engagement**



## Swooping Plover Season - Look out!

It is masked lapwing season (those plovers seen in our towns and paddocks). Which means these birds are starting to nest and get protective and can swoop anyone and anything they deem a threat to their young – like you!

Plovers nest on the ground and their nests and chicks can be hard to see or even notice, until the ever vigilant parents start calling to let you know and then swoop you if you are not paying attention. Their eggs take four weeks to hatch and they will guard their babies fiercely. (Chicks are up and about within hours.)

Plover families can nest in all sorts of places, some inconvenient to us - We have a family of plovers nesting near the St Helens Foreshore Playground, right where families want to hang out. If you spot masked lapwings (plovers) or hear their warning calls, here are some tips:

- It is up to us to avoid masked lapwings, not them to avoid us.
- Look out through the coming nesting season, keep your distance and your head down.
- They are unlikely to harm you physically
- If it's your kids getting close to them, be a good parent and get some distance

To protect you and your family and the plover family on the foreshore we will be putting up some temporary fencing around their nest. Please stay away while this is in place.

If swooping lapwings are a regular thing for you at times, there might be things you can do. Wearing a bike helmet decorated with cable ties might help you or your kids be and feel safer. You could also take some time to gradually help them learn you're not a threat so we can all get along with our parenting.



## Break O'Day Women's Network

Did you know that Break O'Day has a Women's Network group? The group was set up about 15 months ago and the group of local women meet regularly over lunch and invite a guest speaker. The idea of the group is about connecting with other women and celebrating women's achievements. Once you are a member, you are encouraged to bring new women to the group to continue to build the network and connections.

**The next meeting will be on Wednesday 1st September 12.15 for 12.30 start at Parkside - Guest Speaker Ange Boxhall.**

Ange is a professional musician, business owner, creative producer and board member.

She has 25 years' experience in the music industry, touring the world performing, writing and recording. She has 10 years' experience in event management and is the co-founder / co-owner of Tasmanian gin company, The Splendid Gin, along with her husband Michael Travalia.

Ange is the founder and creative producer of ECHO Festival – East Coast Harvest Odyssey.

## WHAT'S ON

### East Coast Swans Game

**30 July**

Senior men's teams host Evandale at home. Juniors at 10.30am, Reserves 12.00pm and Seniors 2.00pm.

# August

## FREE entry for all visitors



St Helens History Room

THE OFF  
SEASON

### 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.

## Book Your Cat A Date

Microchip, Desex & Contain



To help residents comply with the new legislation, a subsidy is now available to Break O'Day residents with a Tasmanian Concession Card. For more information please call our office on 6376 7900.



## Council Works Reports

**Buiding:** Toilet block construction progressing at the St Marys Community Space.

**Road Grading:** Goshen area completed. St Helens area including Medea Cove and Reids Roads as well as Pyengana area. Roads are also being graded with some resheeting in the Mathinna area road network

**Town Maintenance:** All Towns including tree pruning.

**Playgrounds:** Soft fall replenished as required

**Footpath Works:** Akaroa, Binalong Bay.

**Parnella rock wall refurbishment:** Re-establishment of the rock wall and footpath from Scout Hall to Parnella work complete. We are now armouring the rock wall to ensure no future erosion.

**Medea Cove and Quail Street Intersection:** Sealing completed last week. Traffic management to remain in place until line marking is complete. This is preparation work for the mini-round about.



The Works Crew doing footpath works at Akaroa

## Weed Management

**Binalong Bay:** Mirror bush

**Weldborough:** Various

**North Ansons Bay:** Spanish heath

**St Helens footpath and road sides:**  
Spanish heath, blackberry

## Weed of the month - 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. Often a volunteer in gardens, it may be valued for screening and shelter, but is a rampant environmental weed that grows up through shade to smother native vegetation.

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.

## Introducing our new Trainee - Sophie Richards

**Where did you go to School?** St Helens District High School

**What attracted you to applying for a traineeship with Council?** I wanted a career change and to find a role that aligns more to what I want to do. Working outdoors.

**What's it like being the only woman in the works crew?** It is good fun! Lots of banter with the whole Outdoor workforce

**Any advice for other women out there thinking about working in a similar (male dominated) industry?** Do it!! It is the best decision I have ever made.

**What does your day to day activities include?** Everything Civil. No days are the same and I am learning a variety of skills each day.

**What are you learning?** Lots of things, so far I have learnt how to lay some finished concrete, bitumen patching, how to dig out and prepare for concrete, installation of roadside

information signs and how to operate an excavator (under supervision). Not bad considering I have only been employed at Council for a few weeks!

**What do you enjoy most about working for Council?** The mellow-ness and feeling like I am part of a team that is there to support the community and improve/maintain infrastructure.

**What are your plans for the future?** See where my job takes me! There are so many opportunities within Council and I am looking forward to my future career.



## 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**