

From General Manager - John Brown

Rubbish is a big part of what we create and have to deal with in our daily lives, more specifically our household waste and recycling. Once we toss it in the wheelie bin and wheel it out for the garbage truck to pick up that is the end of things in our minds. Whilst we might think this is the case, in reality it is not. A few years ago Council introduced a recycling service to provide a way for all of us to do our bit for the environment by recycling and keeping these items out of landfill. Has this been successful? No, not as it should have been. We have really high contamination rates in our recycling bins – and if the contamination is too high, the materials can't be effectively sorted so it ends up in landfill. This occurs because we are either confused about what we can recycle or maybe we simply don't care. The way we deal with waste and recycling is changing and there is going to be an impact not just on our hip pockets but also in the way these systems work. After several years of lobbying from various areas the Tasmanian Government is finally accepting it has a role to play in dealing with waste management and recycling through the introduction of a Container Deposit System and a statewide approach to waste management. Substantial changes need to happen in the recycling sector as it is largely unprofitable but is great for the environment. Interestingly the only recyclable materials which are currently profitable to recover are metal and cardboard (though cardboard is impacted by glass contamination). A few other facts on the national situation I recently saw:

- 56% of total waste in Australia was recycled in 2019
- Plastic recycling rate is about 25% of what comes into the system
- Glass recycling is about 50% with 600,000t of glass still to be disposed of.

Youth hosts Mad Hatter Tea Party

On 8 June the Youth Connect North East Coast Tasmania committee held a Mad Hatters Tea Party to showcase to the community the good work the group does in our municipality.

Approximately 100 people attended the event, which was supported by Healthy Tasmania. Guests included community members, politicians and most importantly, lots and lots of young people.

The event featured fancy dress, activities and lots of yummy food thanks to the hard work of YCNECT committee members, volunteers and young people who even made the scones from scratch.

The event also provided attendees with

the opportunity to have their say on what youth activities they would like to see in their community and provided by YCNECT. YCNECT also spoke about their organisation and their Mobile Outreach Project which has been generously funded by the Tasmanian Community Fund, Foundation for Young Australians and with support from the St Helens Neighbourhood House and Break O'Day Council.

If anyone would like to get involved they can look YCNECT up on Facebook or send an email to ycnect@gmail.com. – They are always looking for volunteers!

Break O'Day Council is proud to be a partner and supporter of this project.



Pictured above: A contractor attempts to open Wrinklers Lagoon

Information on Barway openings

Whenever there is significant rainfall on the radar, our office receives numerous calls and emails about opening barways around our municipality. While we understand the concern of residents, it is really important that it is understood how complicated opening barways can be. Council only gets involved in opening a barway when there is a threat to infrastructure that we manage, for example roads. We then seek formal permission from the Parks and Wildlife Service to go ahead with opening the barway.

The two barways that we are able

to seek permission to open are; the Scamander River Mouth and Wrinklers Lagoon. Any other barways fall under the jurisdiction of State Growth (Dianas Basin) and Parks (Grants Lagoon).

Even if we do get permission to open the barway, there is no guarantee that they will stay open because we are literally battling mother nature.

If you have ever observed how much the sand moves and changes along our coastline you will have an appreciation of how little control we have over tidal surges and the general movement of sand.

Long Weekend Event Wrap-Up

It was a busy long weekend in Break O'Day as we saw two of our beloved annual events return after a 12month hiatus due to the pandemic; The Bay of Fires Winter Arts Festival and the St Marys Car, Bike and Pedal Car Show.

The annual Bay of Fires Winter Arts Festival this year introduced a Local's Art Prize as well as the \$20,000 main Art Prize and the Youth Art Prize.

The winner of this year's major art prize was Ben Richardson with his ceramic vessels titled "After the fires". The people's choice award went to Beaumaris local, Dane Chisholm while local artist Rob Mervyn Barnes, won the Local Art Prize with his painting "Rhyme of the Ranting Sea."

The Youth Art Prize featured many amazing entries from far and wide which were all exhibited in the Portland Hall over the long weekend. There was a long list of winners which

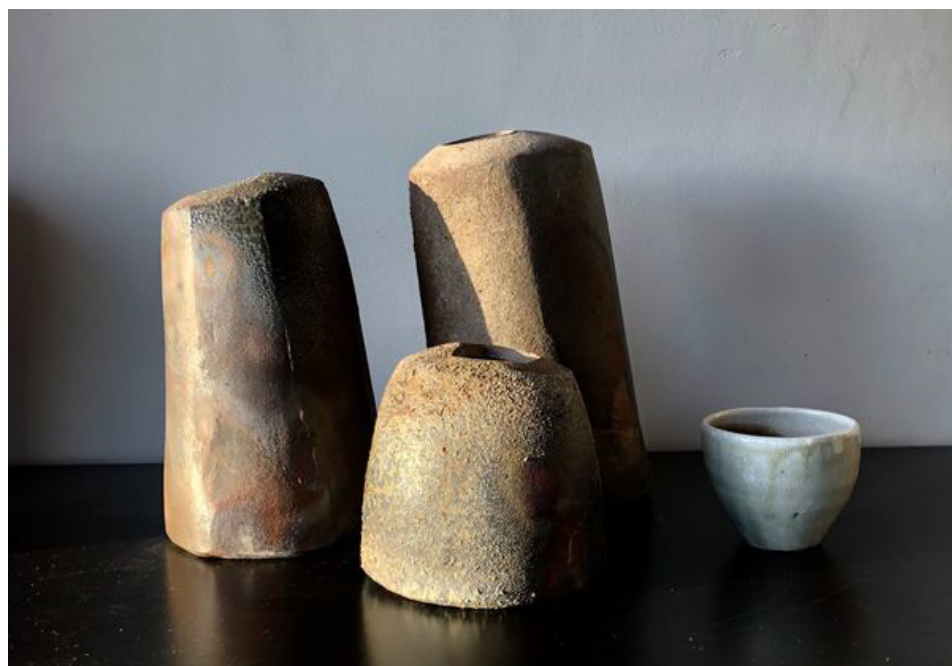
you can find on the Bay of Fires Winter Arts Festival Facebook page.

Other events included the ever popular Secret People, Secret Places which sees local artists open their studios to the public over the long weekend.

Businesses we spoke to said that they had a good long weekend and felt the events definitely gave people an extra reason to come and enjoy our area.

The St Marys Car Show by all reports was a huge success this year with around 2000 people attending. Patrons at the event said they not only loved seeing all the vehicles but enjoyed the live music and street food which created a fantastic festive vibe about the town.

Well done to organisers, volunteers and businesses who helped make these events such a success.



Above, Ben Richardson's winning entry- After the fires".

Your Rates Explained

Over the coming weeks we will be sending out the Annual Rates Renewal Notices. You will notice that when you receive these rates there will be a four page newsletter enclosed and we would encourage all rate payers to take the time to read this information.

Due to a number of circumstances Council has agreed to raise rates by 5% this year and information in this

newsletter will explain why. In brief, this rise is mainly due to increased waste and recycling charges that have been imposed on Council by waste facilities and contractors as well as a State wide waste levy.

In the newsletter you will also find tips on what we can all do as individuals to reduce waste to landfill, or as we like to say, being a good sort.

IN BRIEF Dog Flyer missed from mailout

We have been experiencing some issues with the mail out of the Responsible Dog Ownership flyer. This was meant to go to all owners of registered dogs in our area with the mail out of the dog registration renewals. Unfortunately the contractor forgot to include them. As a result, they agreed to send them out again with a letter explaining the situation at no cost to Council. While the letter went out, the flyer was missed a second time.

Council has again been in touch with contractors who have agreed to send out the flyers with an apology letter, again, at no cost to Council.

Council uses a contracted service to do the rates and dog renewal mail outs as it is more cost effective than doing it in house considering printing costs as well as staff resourcing.

In the meantime you can find the flyer on our website under My Property/Dogs.

St Helens Wins Silver

In case you missed it, St Helens received silver in Tassie's Top Tourism Town competition. The North West township Stanley won the gold this year – by a very narrow margin, and will now go on to compete for the title of Australia's Top Tourism Town later in the year.

We would like to congratulate the community of Stanley and again thank all those who were involved in creating the entry.

COVID REMINDER

It may have been over a year since we had a COVID case in Tasmania but we still need to be mindful. With outbreaks now happening on the mainland, we all must remember that COVID Safety is an individual responsibility that affects an entire community.

With an aging community in our municipality, we hope everyone understands how important it is to not just be vaccinated but to observe social distancing, use the check-in app, personal hygiene and be aware of changing Government restrictions. Keep up to date with COVID info on the Tasmanian Government's website – coronavirus.tas.gov.au

Old Scamander Bridge UPDATE

While the Scamander Bridge removal is not a Council project we are still hearing lots of questions about the project from the community so we forwarded some of them on to State Government for answers. The questions and their answers are below.

What is happening to the old trusses and scrap metal?

These materials are being loaded into skip bins and recycled at an approved steel recycling facility in Devonport.

What remediation works will be done to the river banks where the abutments were?

Once the Old Scamander Bridge demolition is complete and all of the materials have been removed, the river banks will be reinstated to a similar state as the surrounding banks.

How much longer before it is completely removed?

The removal of the Old Scamander Bridge will finish by end of July 2021, weather permitting. We have also started the remediation work of the surrounding areas, and expect to finish by mid-August.

Velvet Worm Award funding goes to St Helens District School

A student and community project by St Helens District High School has won Council's \$2000 Velvet Worm Action Award for 2021. The School's Break O'Day's Biota in the Bush project will investigate the value of private land for biodiversity conservation in our area. Students and staff of the school will use scientific research methods to survey biodiversity in remnant bushland habitats, including some that are important for a number of threatened species. Private landholders and local birdwatching groups will collaborate with students on the project. Students in different classes will analyse the data collected in the field and share knowledge about

their findings including by uploading records to biodiversity databases like the Tasmanian Natural Values Atlas.

Landholders and biodiversity managers locally and state wide will benefit from the information about the value of remnant habitat areas that the project generates.

Council's Velvet Worm Action Award aims to recognise and support the contributions people in our community make to protect and sustain our natural environment and management of natural resources for us and future generations. The Award this year is focused on Break O'Day's youth and funding new actions and projects.

Works crews deal with storm damage

Every time we have a spate of bad weather, particularly rain and wind, the works teams are forced to put many of their jobs aside to do storm clean-up work. This can take anything from a few days to a few weeks.

Break O'Day Council manages approximately 600km of road across our municipality (more than 200 sealed and more than 320 unsealed). This is a lot of road to get around and check for storm damage.

Storm clean-up works include clearing drains, clearing roads of trees, road and pavement repairs and just general tidying-up, this can sometimes put the teams behind schedule.

We ask that after a big storm event our community remains patient while our works teams attend to any damage.

MULCH \$20M³

Double mulched green waste
suitable for garden use available
from the St Helens Waste Transfer
Station.

Bring your ute or trailer and we will
load it for you.

**AVAILABLE BETWEEN
10AM AND 2PM
WEDNESDAY AND SUNDAY**

"He controls the money, always uses her credit card and gets angry when she asks what he's buying. I've seen him yell at her if she asks to buy anything for herself or the kids."

THIS IS ECONOMIC ABUSE AND IT IS FAMILY VIOLENCE.

If you are concerned about a friend, family member, neighbour or colleague, check in on them; offer support; or contact a specialist service for advice.



Visit www.safefromviolence.tas.gov.au
for more information.



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

- **Beaumaris walking track** – Rehabilitation of gravel surface from Ocean Drive to Reedy Road with view to seal later in the year once the weather warms up.
- **Foreshore walking track** - Asphaltting of the carpark on the Northern end (opposite Circassian St) completed with lights and seats to be installed in coming weeks.
- **Forest Lodge Road** - Intake hill remains closed. Landslip work is complete with some works on the road remaining- We expect to open the road by the beginning of July.
- **Update on Nth Ansons resheeting** After regrading this road we experienced significant rain which wreaked havoc for the Works crews with sections now having to be regraded. Currently the team is regrading and reshaping from Eddystone Point to Ansons Bay. This work is anticipated to take 2-3 weeks. We would like to thank regular users of the road for their patience and understanding.
- **Town Maintenance** - crews have been busy dealing with fallen trees from weather events as well as normal duties like pruning our street trees.
- **St Marys** – The Valley crew have been busy working on drainage issues as well as grading roads in the St Marys area.

Weed Officer Activity

Aerodrome- Thistles, Spanish Heath and African daisy

Cornwall - Blackberry

Poseidon Street - Blackberry

Davis Gully Road - Spanish Heath and Blackberry

Four Mile Creek Road - Spanish Heath and Blackberry

Kieran's Beach walkway - Bridal Creeper, Periwinkle and Blackberry

Reids Road - Spanish Heath and Pampas grass

Seymour - Gorse

St Helens Waste Transfer Station - Spanish Heath

Stieglitz - Mignonette, Fox Glove, Thistles

Weed of the month- Bridal Creeper



Bridal creeper grows through the cooler months and often from under other vegetation. A perennial crown of tough roots and tubers helps it tolerate drought.

Annual growth of shoots with green leaf like 'cladodes' in the cooler months is followed by red pea sized berries in

spring, which birds spread. Foliage dies back over summer.

Look for it along fences, under trees and shrubs, and in carelessly dumped garden waste.

Treatment can include digging out smaller plants and seedlings, ensuring all the underground rhizomes and tubers are removed. Handle and dispose of fruit/seeds and rhizomes very carefully. Seed viability declines after 3 years in the soil. Well-timed spot spraying with a registered herbicide is effective, but take care to avoid non-target vegetation.

Bridal Creeper will begin flowering around August, so now is the time to act. Further information on identification and treatment methods can be found on DPIPWE's weed pages: dpiipwe.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/weeds

Drought Weeds Funding program

Council's Drought Weeds project has reached a milestone with the last two last farm grants approved for cape weed at St Helens and the ongoing control of a Patersons curse infestation at Mangana. Over \$25,000 has been allocated to nine weed control projects in the George and Fingal valleys.

Peter Heading, Council's Drought Weeds Officer is available to help and support landholders until September. However these two grant funded projects use up the last of the Break O'Day Drought Weeds grants pool Council has had for farmers. Peter Heading can help landholders with weed management and control plans. Success against weeds depends on a well thought out strategic approach for initial control and the essential follow-up over many years. A control plan can be used for future grant applications and offers from the Tasmanian Weed Action Fund or elsewhere.

Projects funded include:

- 'Kooringa', Esk Main Road - Gorse & Californian thistle control. Funding sought \$3,818 (inc GST)
- WhalersWatchLaneNeighbourhood - Spanish Heath Control Project. Funding sought \$8,470 (inc GST)

- Lower George floodplain, St Helens Weed/s Cape weed Control. Funding sought \$440.
- 'Speyside', Mangana Weed/s Patersons curse, cotton and nodding thistle control. Funding sought \$5,584

The Tasmanian Weed Action Fund (DPIPWE) has committed to extending their Grant Deed with Council for the Break O'Day Council Drought Weeds Project beyond 6 May 2021. Council's contract with NRM North for the Break O'Day Drought Weeds Officer has been extended to October 2021. That extension will support another weed field day/workshop event in Break O'Day, facilitate farm weed control plans/projects and extension work, and end of project reporting.

Approval of the current two grant applications by Council will mean Break O'Day Drought Weeds Grants funds will be fully allocated, with the extension to the Break O'Day Drought Weeds Officer. This will mean no further Break O'Day Drought Weeds grant funds are available and following Council's previous decision (10/20.15.4.196) the invitation for applications are now closed.