

From the General Manager - John Brown

Where is the line between governance and operational matters? It is a tension point that exists within all organisations and one most Boards/Management Committees and Managers regularly face. It can be a healthy debate, where greater understanding and respect for the respective roles develops. Or it can become toxic with the Board interfering in operational matters or the Manager overstepping into governance. Boards face ongoing challenges, not only finding people willing to join but also having the skills necessary to function properly. A lot rests on the shoulders of office bearers such as the Chairperson and Public Officer, who have significant responsibilities as the 'persons controlling the business unit'. Failure to discharge these responsibilities correctly can leave them liable to prosecution and, if found guilty, it is they who pay, not the organisation. Managers employed by a community organisation need to tread a fine line, providing advice to the Board and implementing its decisions whilst being responsible for effectively running the 'business', making sure activities/projects are delivered as intended whilst supporting the Board. The Board and Chairperson must clearly understand their role and not become a de facto Manager, making decisions beyond their authority. These local community organisations are incorporated associations and, as such, are legal entities in their own right. If the Board steps out of line, it is the members who must hold it to account, which can be difficult as a rogue Board will do everything it can to cling to power regardless of how wrong it is. Maybe it is time for a review of the Associations Incorporation Act to increase accountability and personal liability for illegal or unconstitutional actions. The Corporations Act imposes onerous responsibilities, and while I am not advocating we go to that level, there is a need for change.

Break O'Day Triathlon Challenge Recognised with State Award



Photo: The Break O'Day Triathlon Challenge recognised at this year's 2025-26 AusTriathlon Tasmanian Awards

Congratulations to everyone involved in the Break O'Day Freycinet Holiday Houses Triathlon Challenge, which has been awarded the 2025–2026 Club Initiative of the Year Award by the Launceston Triathlon Club.

This is a fantastic achievement and a great recognition of what can be accomplished when a community comes together.

The Break O'Day Triathlon Challenge has become a much-loved event on our community calendar, attracting competitors and visitors while showcasing everything our region has to offer. It simply wouldn't be possible without the dedication of

the organising committee, volunteers, athletes, spectators, sponsors and local businesses who generously give their time and support each year.

Council congratulates everyone who has played a part in the event's success. Awards like this are a reminder that events don't happen on their own—they are made possible by people who are willing to lend a hand, cheer others on and work together for the benefit of the whole community.

We look forward to seeing the Break O'Day Triathlon Challenge return on Sunday, 7 February 2027 and wish the organisers every success for another fantastic event.

Revaluations and Your Rates

The 2026/27 financial year is a revaluation year for Break O'Day. This means property values across the municipality have been reassessed by the independent Office of the Valuer-General (OVG).

Council does not set individual property values. Council's role is to decide how rates are applied using the new valuation information. A

revaluation does not mean every property's rates change by the same amount. Some properties may see small changes, some may decrease, and others may increase more. This depends on how each property's value has changed compared with others, as well as its rating category, minimum rate and other charges. **CONT. >>**



Council has not simply allowed higher property values to flow straight through to higher rates. When setting rates for 2026/27, Council has worked to limit increases where it can, particularly for residential properties, primary production, commercial properties and the small industrial sector.

This approach aims to respond to the revaluation as fairly as possible, while recognising that not everyone in our community has the same ability to manage rising costs.

Minimum rates will also increase in 2026/27. A minimum rate is the base amount charged before the valuation-based part of the rate is applied. It recognises that all properties have access to Council services and infrastructure, regardless of their individual property value.

Minimum rates do not apply to every property in the same way. They vary depending on things like land use, property type and the broader rating structure. Around one quarter of properties across the municipality are charged a minimum rate.

Your rates notice may also include two waste charges.

The waste collection charge applies where a property receives a kerbside bin collection service. This helps cover the cost of collecting household waste

and recycling. It is not applied to properties without kerbside collection. The waste infrastructure charge helps fund the broader waste system, including waste transfer stations, landfill costs, recycling, public place bins, waste education, disposal and other waste-related costs.

Waste costs continue to rise due to fuel, contractor costs, landfill costs and recycling costs.

All general household waste collected in Break O'Day that cannot be recycled is compacted at Scamander before being transported to landfill near Hobart. In the year ahead, Council needs to replace the waste compactor at Scamander, which is estimated to cost more than \$1.9 million, the Waste Infrastructure charge assists to fund these type of projects to ensure we can continue the service delivery.

Your rates notice will also include the Fire Levy, which Council collects on behalf of the State Government.

If you are concerned about paying your rates, please contact Council early. Payment plans and hardship assistance options may be available.

More information, including FAQs and how to contact the Office of the Valuer-General, is available on Council's website.

IN BRIEF

KEEP WATCH FOR BIRD FLU

As migratory birds return to Tasmania, there's a risk they could bring bird flu (H5N1) with them, potentially impacting local wildlife. While the public can't stop its spread, staying informed is key

Avoid: Do not touch sick or dead birds or other wildlife.

Record: Take photos or videos, record the location, type of animal and how many animals

Report: Report to the Emergency Animal Disease hotline on 1800 675 888.

Be aware of bird flu



TASMANIAN

BIRD FLU

PREPAREDNESS

www.nre.tas.gov.au/BirdFlu

Although bird flu has not been detected in Tasmania so far, it is a good idea to find out what you can do to keep yourself and animals safe from the NRE website. If you have pets or backyard poultry, keeping them away from wild birds is a simple step that helps protect both wildlife and domestic animals.

HELP SHAPE COUNCIL'S NEWSLETTER

Council is inviting readers to provide feedback as part of a review and redesign of the community newsletter. The review aims to better understand how you access local information, what you value most and how the newsletter can be improved to better meet your needs.

Feedback will help guide future changes to the newsletter's design, layout, content and delivery methods, ensuring it remains an informative, easy-to-read and accessible source of local news and updates across Break O'Day.

Scan the QR code or visit www.bodc.tas.gov.au/community/news-events/ to give feedback.



"Coming together is the beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success."

- Henry Ford

Aquatic Facility Update: What's Happening?

At the April Council Meeting, Council approved the next stage of work for a proposed Aquatic Facility in St Helens. Otium, the consultants who completed the original feasibility study, have now been re-engaged to develop a detailed Business Case to determine whether an aquatic facility can be delivered in a way that is affordable, sustainable and provides long-term benefit to the Break O'Day community.

The Business Case will consider possible locations, funding options and ways to reduce the ongoing cost to ratepayers. As part of Council's staged and responsible approach, it will also explore whether a broader wellness centre model could provide greater community benefit and stronger long-term financial outcomes through complementary services such as rehabilitation, allied health, fitness, community meeting rooms, office accommodation and other health and wellbeing services.

Once completed, the Business Case options will be considered by Council. Council understands that many people

would like to see a pool in Break O'Day. The key question now is whether our community can afford to build and operate an aquatic facility, both now and into the future. Simply put, aquatic facilities generally run at a loss, meaning they are heavily subsidised by rate and tax payers.

Other Tasmanian pools, including Oatlands and Branhholm, are often raised as examples of successful community facilities. While they provide valuable health and community benefits, they do not operate at a profit and require ongoing Council funding.

This is why the Business Case is so important—it will assess both the cost to build the facility and the ongoing cost to operate it each year, helping Council make an informed long-term decision.

To learn more about the types of costs being considered, visit the Current Projects and Activities page on Council's website and read the Aquatic Facility FAQ.

WHAT'S ON

With One Voice Break O'Day Choir Every Tuesday

Doors open at 5pm with buses running from St Helens and Fingal Valley to the Falmouth Community Centre. Come along, enjoy singing in a group, connecting with community and sharing a delicious supper. Contact Liz 0439 001 533 for more information.

ReThink Waste - Wednesday 15 July

Join ReThink Waste these school holidays for a fun, hands-on kids workshop all about reusing soft plastics. Get creative and turn everyday waste into something new. St Helens Library 11.30-12.30pm. Register at Humanitix.

Wellness Creative Day - 17 July

A day of sharing, creating memories and taking part in a variety of activities. Food, attractions, dress up and more at Fingal Valley Neighbourhood House, 10-2.30pm. FREE bus service available. Contact Margaret on 0438 181 439.

What Does Resilience Really Mean? Workshop-

Monday 20 July

St Helens local Nathan Burns will be the guest speaker for Lifeline Tasmania speaking about 'resilience' at the Panorama Hotel from 6pm. \$30 pp for pizza and the talk! To register, visit www.portal.lifelinetasmmania.org.au

Artists' Dinner -

Saturday 29 August

Break O'Day Artists Inc. presents "Artists' Dinner" at Panorama Hotel from 6.30pm.

Two course dinner, entertainment, raffle and more. Book now at Eventbrite.

Back to St Marys Weekend - 31 October 2026

Reunite, reflect, reminisce, supported by Break O'Day Regional Arts, St Marys District School Association and Fingal Valley Neighbourhood House. Email backtostmarys2026@gmail.com for more information.

Annual Beach Clean Up - October 2026

CJR Foundation and Tangaroa Blue, with the support of the Council, will be hosting a community beach clean up at Binalong Bay in October. This will be an annual event so keep a look out for date and time on Council's Facebook to come along and be inspired.

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.

CAT DESEXING AND MICROCHIPPING SUBSIDY

Cats are now required by law to be desexed and microchipped.



Open to all Break O'Day residents



Limit two cats per household

For more information including an application form visit our website or scan this QR code.

Get your Cat Microchipped and Desexed!



Applications open until end of August 2026



www.bodc.tas.gov.au

(03) 6376 7900

Council is offering a limited-time subsidy to assist residents with the cost of microchipping and desexing their cats. Desexing and microchipping help keep cats healthy, reduce unwanted litters and ensure lost pets

can be identified and returned home. And it's a legal requirement.

Applications close 31 August 2026 or when funding is exhausted.

To apply, visit www.bodc.tas.gov.au/property/cats/

Council Works Reports

- Maintenance grading scheduled for Seymour, Davis Gully, North Ansons Road and Ansons Bay Road
- Elephant Road drainage work pending
- Road shoulder maintenance in the Mathinna area, coastal roads maintenance to follow
- Drainage work in Stieglitz Street, St Marys soon to commence
- Playground soft fall maintenance in progress
- The Scamander playground shade sail has been removed for repairs due to vandalism



Follow Break O'Day Council on Facebook

for the latest news, updates and community info!

www.facebook.com/BreakODayCouncil

WEED MANAGEMENT

- **St Helens:** Thistles, Spanish heath, African daisy.
- **Stieglitz:** Thistles, Hemlock, Broadleaf
- **St Marys:** Thistles, Hemlock, Broadleaf
- **Fingal:** Thistles, Capeweed, Broadleaf

DOG STATISTICS

MAY 2026

Urban Patrols = 14

Beach Patrols = 9

Infringements = 0

Unregistered Dog = 0

Impounded Dogs = 2

Weed of the Month - boneseed

Boneseed is a Declared Pest in Tasmania and one of Australia's worst invasive weeds due to its ability to spread rapidly and establish almost anywhere. It doesn't typically flower until 18 months old, making early removal important before plants produce seed. Mature plants can produce up to 50,000 seeds each year. Under the Weed Management Act, landowners are responsible for controlling boneseed on their property. Its shallow root system makes it easy to hand-pull or carefully spot-spray with a

registered herbicide.

Plants can be piled, ensuring the roots are off the ground. If seeds are present, remove, bag and burn them. Winter is the ideal time to treat boneseed before it sets seed, but follow-up control over the next year or two is essential.

Visit www.NRE.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/weeds



BURN BRIGHTER THIS WINTER

Residents are encouraged to follow simple steps to reduce wood smoke and improve air quality this winter.

Key tips for a cleaner, more efficient fire:

- Only burn dry, seasoned firewood
- Always burn with a visible flame, don't let your fire smoulder
- After reloading your fire, open the air intake and burn on high for 20 minutes, especially before going to bed

Why it matters

Keeping your fire burning hot helps reduce smoke and improves heating efficiency. When starting a fire or adding wood:

- Keep the air intake open for at least 20 minutes
- This allows the wood to burn properly with flames
- A hot fire burns off smoke more effectively
- Reducing air intake after 20 minutes can cut smoke by up to 90%

Cleaner burning helps everyone breathe easier, including your neighbours. These simple steps make little difference to how long your fire burns overnight while greatly reducing smoke pollution.

For more information, visit www.epa.tas.gov.au

Making good things happen

When you bank with us, profits pour into the community. \$90,000 so far.

A bank giving back sounds unusual. For us, it's business as usual.

Find out more. Call us on 03 6376 2560 or search Bendigo Bank St Helens - St Marys.



Community Bank
St Helens-St Marys