

**Next Council Meetings:**  
**15 April at 10am and 20 May at 10am**

## From the General Manager John Brown

John Tucker officially resigned from Council on Monday 18 March to take up the Lyons seat with the House of Assembly after the position was left vacant by Rene Hidding.

John was first elected as a Councillor with Break O'Day in 2014 and then was re-elected in October last year for a further term of four years. Council wishes him well with his new role in the Tasmanian Parliament and for the future.

Following John's resignation the Tasmanian Electoral Commission were formally notified on Monday 18 March. Advice received from the Tasmanian Electoral Commissioner is that all unsuccessful candidates from the 2018 election will be notified and given the opportunity to take part in the recount for this vacancy. The candidates will have to consent to be included to the recount. The recount will then take place following the close of timeframe for consent. The successful candidate should be known shortly after that time once the recount is confirmed by the TEC.



Mayor Mick Tucker in St Marys with Barnaby Joyce and Senator Steve Martin.

## \$1.9million announced for Break O'Day

On Thursday 21 March, Tasmanian National Senator Steve Martin and Special Envoy for Drought Assistance and Relief Barnaby Joyce announced \$1.9million in funding for Break O'Day. The pair caught up with Mayor Tucker in St Marys where Mr Joyce announced \$1million in funding as part of the Drought Communities program which aims to support communities affected by the drought by stimulating local employment.

At the same time Senator Martin announced \$400,000 for the St Marys Flood mitigation project and \$500,000

for the continued refurbishment of the Old Tasmanian Hotel in Fingal.

"The difference that this funding will make to our community, particularly in the area of job creation is really important, not just to our economy but our community," Mayor Tucker added.

"And projects like the refurbishment of the Old Tasmanian Hotel in Fingal and St Marys flood mitigation project are about future proofing our area for our community and as such are very important to Council."

## Erica shines at Local Government Awards

Friday 8 March was International Women's Day and a chance to celebrate the outstanding and inspirational women in our community.

The Local Government Association of Tasmania celebrated women in Local Government through an awards ceremony held at an official lunch on Friday March 8.

We are very proud to announce that our Community Services Project Officer Erica Lowry was the winner of the Inspirational Leadership – Local Government Officer.

Erica was nominated for this award because of the integral role she played in the coordinating the One Night Stand in September last year.

This was an epic undertaking for a small regional council and we are all very proud of Erica who demonstrated dedication to her community, integrity in ensuring everyone had a chance to be involved and benefit from the event as well as an infectious enthusiasm to see Break O'Day host the best ever One Night Stand in history.

**Would you like to be added to  
our newsletter email list?**

**Please email,**

**[jayne.richardson@bodc.tas.gov.au](mailto:jayne.richardson@bodc.tas.gov.au)**



Some of last year's SCAMJAM participants.

## SCAMJAM - Ride, scoot, skate

On April 6 the Scamander Skate Park will be a-buzz with the annual event, SCAMJAM, a youth BMX and Scooter comp. This year the event will also include an all ages Girls' Penny and skate comp.

The event is part of Youth Week Tasmania's program and starts at 10am and finishes at 2pm. There will be a free BBQ and loads of giveaways up for grabs.

Every year this event attracts a good turn out and has become known as a good, fun, family day.

Each competitor gets a 90 second run to show off their skills and if last year is anything to go by, there are certainly some talented young people in the

area.

"We are really proud to be able to partner with our youth and the State Government and bring this event to Break O'Day every year.

"This is the event's fourth year and is organised and run by the youth of area. This not only provides an opportunity for our youth to host their own competition, but to learn about running community events and establish connections with others in the community." Mayor Mick Tucker said.

This event is made possible by funding from the Tasmanian State Government as part of its Youth Week Funding program.

## Councillor John Tucker resigns

It is with mixed emotions that Council farewell Councillor John Tucker as he takes up his position in the House of Assembly this month.

Cllr Tucker has been representing the Break O'Day community for five years and during this time has seen many changes in our community. He said that one of the things he is most proud of is the change in the Council workforce which has not only seen savings generated through more work being completed in house, but most importantly, the introduction of apprenticeships.

"Apprenticeships aren't just about providing opportunities for employment for our youth but also provide an opportunity for the older workers to pass on their skills and knowledge." Cllr Tucker said.

"I am very proud of what we have achieved in the last five years.

"It has been a pleasure to work with the Management team and staff at Council and I have a lot of confidence in the direction that we are heading in as a community and municipality." Cllr Tucker said.

We wish him every success and know that in his new position, he will continue to serve the interests of our community.

### What Next?

The Tasmanian Electoral Commission is currently recounting our Council area's ballot papers to determine who will be the next Councillor for Break O'Day. We anticipate that we should know by mid-April.

## IN BRIEF

### Community Groups Grants now open

The Tasmanian Community Fund grant applications are now open and will be closing on April 10, 2019.

These Grants are specifically for Community Organisations that are dedicated to making a difference to their community whether this be social, economic or environmental.

There are three levels of grant available through this Round; Small - Up to 20,000, Medium - 20,001 – 70,000 and Large - 100,000 – 500,000.

If your Community Group had a great idea to benefit our community and you would like to see the guidelines or get more information, please visit, [www.tascomfund.org](http://www.tascomfund.org).

### Is your dog registered?

If your dog is over six months of age then it is required by law to be registered. Council will be undertaking property checks during April and owners can be fined \$163 for every unregistered dog found on your property. Apart from being the law, registration allows Council to quickly identify lost pets and return them home to you.

If you have an unregistered dog(s), please give Council a call on 6376 7900 or come into our main office and we can give you an application form and advise you of the registration fee. If you have a pension/health care card, bring that with you (only one concession discount per property).

### What is going on with the Tasmanian Planning Scheme?

Now that the State Planning Provisions have been finalised, Local Government Areas are developing a Local Provisions Schedule. We will be seeking Community input on these Provisions. To keep up to date with where we are at with this please keep an eye on our website; [www.bodc.tas.gov.au/community/community-consultation/](http://www.bodc.tas.gov.au/community/community-consultation/)



## Council Community grant funding announced

At the 18 March Council meeting, we announced the recipients of the 2018-2019 funding as part of the Community Grants Program.

This year 12 Community groups received a total of \$27,729 in funding from all across the municipality from Falmouth to Ansons Bay and St Helens to the Fingal Valley.

Every year the Council earmarks \$30,000 for community driven projects and receives a wide range of requests for support from various community groups throughout the area.

Mayor Mick Tucker said it was never an easy task to decide who gets funding and who has to miss out.

"We have so many hardworking and deserving community groups and projects out and all are worthy of our assistance for all the dedication they show our community." Mayor Mick Tucker said.

"We would like to congratulate the successful groups and thank all community groups who made a submission. After all, all projects put forward were about making our area a better place for all to live.

"We really look forward to seeing the successful projects come to fruition." Mayor Mick Tucker.

## Info on the Barmah Virus

### Message from the Tasmanian Department of Health and Human Services



#### What is Ross River virus and Barmah Forest virus?

Ross River virus and Barmah Forest virus are infections spread by the bite of an infected mosquito.

These viruses are related and cause a similar illness.

Ross River virus is mostly acquired during the summer months when weather is warmer and

Barmah Forest virus is relatively common in mainland states but has not been thought to be present in Tasmania until recently.

#### What are the symptoms?

Many people will not develop symptoms.

However, if they do develop symptoms, these can include:

- fever
- headache
- aches and pains in muscles and joints
- tiredness
- rash
- swollen or stiff joints.

Symptoms usually develop three to 21 days after being bitten by an infected mosquito. Most people recover completely in a few weeks.

#### How are they diagnosed?

These viruses are diagnosed by a blood

test. Two blood tests may be needed two weeks apart. Other illnesses with similar symptoms may need to be ruled out.

#### How are they treated?

There is no specific vaccine or treatment for either infection. Your doctor will advise you on medication to ease the discomfort of symptoms such as joint pain and fever.

#### How are they spread?

Both Ross River and Barmah Forest virus infections are spread by certain types of mosquitoes. When a female mosquito feeds on the blood of an infected animal, the mosquito may become infected with the virus.

The virus may then be passed on to humans when the mosquito feeds again. The virus is not spread from person-to-person. A mosquito is always involved.

For more information visit the Tasmanian Department of Health and Human Services website.



## What's On

### Hospital Open Day

#### April 3

The Tasmanian Health Service would like to invite the Break O'Day community along to tour the new hospital before it officially opens between 10am and 2pm. All welcome

### Pyengana Easter Festival

#### 20 and 21 April

Held at the Pyengana Recreation Ground, this annual event features woodchopping, sheep dog trails, show and shine, working blacksmith, BBQ and more. Camping available. Contact Vaughn Oldham 6373 6170.

### Chaplaincy Fun Run

#### 27 April

This event starts at 9:30am at the Bendigo Community Stadium. It is a family event with 10km, 5km and 2km events. For more information like the St Helens Local Chaplaincy Committee facebook page.

### St Marys Markets

#### First Saturday of every month

Held at the St Marys Hall from 9am - 1pm and featuring local arts and crafts and much more. Stall inquiries can be directed to Megan on 0418 881 315.

### Old Codgers Meeting

#### Every Friday

St Helens Books and Coffee are offering men over 50 the chance to call in, enjoy a hot cuppa. Held from 2-4pm. Cost: \$1 per cuppa.

### St Helens Markets

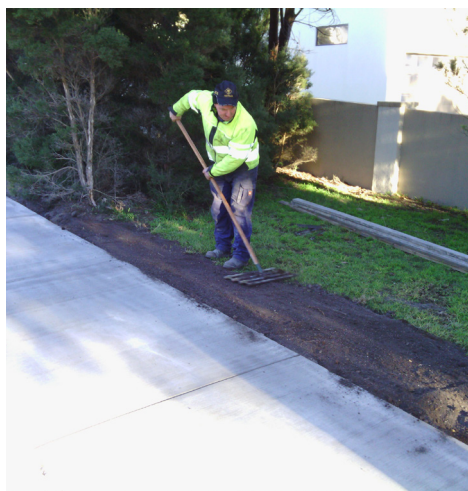
#### Every Saturday

Held every Saturday in the St Helens town centre from 8am - 1pm. New stall holders welcome, phone 0408 927 154.

**Want to see your event here?**  
**Please email**  
[jayne.richardson@bodc.tas.gov.au](mailto:jayne.richardson@bodc.tas.gov.au)

## Capital Works Projects - March

- Fingal streetscape progressing well.
- Gardens Road shoulder reconstruction has commenced with work starting north of Big Lagoon.
- Bridge replacement on Rossarden Road due to commence on Tuesday 26 March 2019 – road will be closed to all traffic for approx. 2 weeks.
- Kismet Place – pavement failure reconstruction is well underway.



Garry LeFevre putting the finishing touches on some footpath work in the Break O'Day

## NBN Update from NBN Co.

A new nbn fixed wireless tower has been switched on north of St Helens – meaning Break O'Day Council area is now fully covered by the nbn access network.

Break O'Day was one of the first places in Australia to be connected when parts of St Helens and Binnalong Bay were connected in 2012.

Since then, services have come on line at Scamander, Beaumaris and St Marys.

The nbn Sky Muster satellite service was also launched in 2017, so all premises in the Council area are able to place an order to connect.

To get connected, approach a phone or internet company and place an order. Across Tasmania, the nbn rollout is now over 99.5% complete.

## Weed of the month- Pampas Grass



It's that time of year again. Pampas is actively growing, flowering and treatable now!

Small plants can be dug out or treated carefully with herbicide. With larger plants, remove flowers and dispose of, cut back using shears or a brush cutter. They can then be dug out or left to reshoot making herbicide application easier.

Let aim for a pampas free Break O'Day. For more information on identification, treatment and control please visit: <http://dpi.wa.gov.au/invasive-species/weeds/weeds-index/weeds-index-declared-weeds/pampas>

## Assistance Dogs and Businesses - One Community member's experience

It is not unusual for us all to see guide dogs while we are out and about and the majority of us recognise their importance, however, this same understanding is not often afforded Assistance Dogs. We recently met David Cantley at the St Helens Township meeting. David has an assistance dog and we wanted to share his story with our community.

David suffers with PTSD and as a result has a lovely assistance dog called Buddy. Buddy has been with David for 12 years and is an accredited Assistance Dog. Unfortunately David and Buddy have been refused entry to several St Helens businesses on the basis that he has an Assistance dog. According to the Discrimination Act 1992 Amended 2009, this treatment may be discrimination. You can find out exactly what is considered discrimination here <https://www.business.gov.au/people/customers/refusing-service>

"When it happens I try my hardest not to get into an argument with them. It feels like a personal attack on me even though it isn't. I was having a great day now you have just destroyed my day.

"To someone without PTS you would think he is just carrying on. But this is just a snippet of what it is like to go from calm to storm in a split second. Trust me it is so exhausting to live like this." David said.

"Before you tell the person that you can't have dogs in here. Please take the

time to read the jacket as it will alleviate so much anxiety from a person who has an assistance dog who has to constantly explain to business owners who don't know their rules."

As a Council we believe in inclusion and equal opportunity and would encourage everyone in our community to take the time, particularly in our business community to learn more about what the rules are around allowing Assistance Dogs on their premises.

We would like to thank David for sharing his story with us and our community.



Buddy and David aboard one of the RFS planes