

From General Manager - John Brown

How the world changes in a day let alone in the month since my last message.... There is no doubt that we are in very uncertain times and we are in the grip of behaviours which are not normal. We have all seen in the media or experienced first hand the sight of empty shelves in our local supermarket. This invokes a fear in us that we have missed the boat and we now become stressed about the need to prepare for what might lay ahead. It is really disappointing to see planned events cancelled and normal activities like the Saturday market postponed, these decisions are never taken lightly by the organisers and we need to be very supportive of them into the future as life comes back to what will be a new 'normal'.

On the face of it, Council has been maintaining business as usual whilst working through business continuity planning. What you don't see is what we have put in place behind the scenes and our approach to delivering essential services to support our communities as we face a range of scenarios. This is all happening at the same time as our team members are themselves experiencing the same concerns that everyone in our community are feeling. It does mean that there have already been some changes in how we go about our daily work activities. We much prefer to do business through face-to-face contact but in the current environment phone or email contact helps to minimise risk for everyone and we have a strong focus on social distancing and hygiene. No one has a clear picture of how this is going to play out, our focus is on being flexible and changing quickly as the situation evolves. So if we ask that you deal with us in a different way in the near future, this is because we feel it is in the best interests of everyone concerned. Please heed the messaging and work with us during this uncertain time.

St Helens MTB trails win first award

The St Helens Mountain Bike Trails received their first ever award, the Power of Partnerships at the MTBA Achievement awards.

The award was presented on 12 March in Bright Victoria to Break O'Day Council, The Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service and World Trail for their collaborative efforts in delivering the St Helens MTB Trails.

"What an honour it is to be receiving our first award not even six months after opening," Break O'Day Mayor Mick Tucker said.

"This really was a surprise but also great recognition of the collective effort that went in to the design, construction and delivery of the project. Without the expertise, support and assistance of our partners, this project would not have been possible.

World Trail Project Manager, Gerard McHugh and Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service Deputy Secretary, Jason Jacobi echoed these sentiments; "World Trail is honoured to be awarded a 2019 MTBA Achievement alongside our partners Break O'Day Council and Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service. We are extremely proud of the St Helens mountain bike trails and the positive impact it is having on the town and community," Mr McHugh said.

"This award is excellent recognition for the Parks and Wildlife Service and testimony to the great outcomes that can be achieved when local government, business, community and Parks work together. We are honoured to be included as a partner in this very successful project," Mr Jacobi said.

Mayor Tucker said he believed



that because of the quality and sustainability of the St Helens MTB product, that he hoped to see more award wins in future.

"What we have achieved with our partners is really quite phenomenal and we also won't be resting on our laurels as we all continue to work together to bring more quality trail to the network," Mayor Tucker said.

"In just a few weeks now we will be launching two new black diamond descents, which offer something very different to other gravity trails in the state and in a few months after that we will be opening a 23km adventure trail that will take riders to hidden water holes and waterfalls. It's just going to get better and better!"



Community Grant recipients

At the 16 March Council meeting, Break O'Day Council announced the recipients of the 2019-2020 funding as part of the Community Grants Program.

This year, seven Community groups from all across the municipality received a total of 27,772 in funding from all across the municipality.

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 being able to support community projects was something very important to Council.

"As a small Council we often have the community expect us to deliver all types of projects large and small. While we do everything we can, we do

have limited funds and resources and as much as we want to be able to do everything our community wants it just isn't practical," he said.

"Forward thinking and pro-active community groups like the ones we have supported this year through our community grant process are so important as they can deliver on grass roots projects."

"These community groups are at the very forefront of knowing what their community needs and we look forward to seeing all their projects coming to fruition over the next 12 months."

"On behalf of Council I would like to congratulate all the community groups who put forward their ideas and wish every success to those that were successful in receiving funding."

Successful community groups and projects:

St Helens/St Marys RSL Sub Branch: Bench seating, St Helens Memorial Park- \$3,900.00; **St Helens Little Athletics Centre;** Build a purpose built cover for high jump mat- \$5,000.00, **St Helens Christian Fellowship,** Support for veterans and people who suffer from PTSD - \$5,000.00, **Scamander**

Sports Complex - Community BBQ and Gazebo - \$1,872.85, **St Helens Bowls Club:** Upgrade kitchen facilities – replace stove - \$5,500.00, **Fingal Valley Neighbourhood House:** Replace fridge - \$1,500.00, **Suncoast Pony & Riding Club:** Horsemanship Clinic - \$2,000.00

Local Provision Schedule closer

As part of the development of a Tasmanian Planning Scheme, Break O'Day Council has just finalised its Draft Local Provision Schedule (LPS) which has now been submitted to the Tasmanian Planning Commission.

The Tasmanian Planning Commission will assess the Draft LPS and determine whether it is suitable for public notification. Once the Planning Commission advises that it can be publicly notified, Council will invite the community's feedback.

Submitting the LPS to the Tasmanian Planning Commission is one of the first steps in the process of implementing the Tasmanian Planning Scheme.

Building permits Do you have a completion certificate?

If you have a building permit that was issued before November 2012 and a Completion Certificate has not been issued, you have until 1 July to either obtain Completion Certificates or apply to extend the permit.

As the local authority as determined by the State Government for Building works in our area, we have an obligation to ensure all works have been completed in line with your building permit by issuing you with a completion certificate.

If you are unsure Councils Development Services staff are here to help, please contact us if you have any enquiries on 6376 7900.

IN BRIEF Dragon Trail Cancellation

Unfortunately the organisers of the Dragon Trail have had to cancel the event due to concerns around the Coronavirus. While this is disappointing for the area and the organisers, Council is supportive of their decision and will continue to work with the organisers so that the 2021 event will be even bigger and better.

Driver Mentoring Cancelled

Get In 2 Gear, Learner Driver mentor program ceased operation on 16 March under the direction of the Department of State Growth, Driver Mentoring Tasmania and the Driving Assessors due to concerns around the spread of the Coronavirus. This decision was made with regards to the health and safety of our valuable mentors and learners in mind. This also means that we are unable to offer this service until we are advised otherwise. Those directly affected have been informed.

Toilet Block Replacement

To ensure that public facilities are kept in a good condition for locals and visitors alike, we have developed a 10 year Toilet Block Replacement Program. The program prioritises toilet facilities is based on age, condition and usage. If you would like to see a copy of the program you can find it on our website under My Council/ Major Projects.

TIP SHOPS CLOSED

Due to the Coronavirus, the St Helens and St Marys Tip Shops will be closing for the foreseeable future. This includes the dropping-off of items.

The Hospital Auxiliary apologies for any inconvenience.

Break O'Day Council and the COVID-19

Council Events/meetings

Council have made the decision to cancel all of our community meetings and information sessions.

Council services and COVID-19

Council will do all it can to ensure the continuation of our essential services and have developed operational plans to ensure we can do this. In the office we are taking social distancing very seriously and while we are still operating with front counter customer service as per normal, we ask that if possible, instead of coming into the building you; give us a call, send us an email or use our online services.

To make online payments, head to our website and click on the Make a Payment link at the top of the home page. This will give you a range of options for paying Council related fees. If you do come in to the main office on Georges Bay Esplanade, St Helens, you will notice that we have made some changes which allow us to maintain adequate social distancing while still providing customer service. This is for your and our staff's safety.

We recommend that you keep an eye on our facebook page in regard to our services as we will be adapting to the changes as they occur and are dictated by the State and Federal Governments..

Hand soap and public bathrooms

Last Friday we installed soap dispensers in as many of our public toilets as possible, focussing on those that are high use. Unfortunately we were not able to complete all due to a global shortage on soap dispensers and soap-refills. This means that while we will endeavour to do all we can to keep toilets equipped with soap, we cannot make this guarantee.

For more information on the effect of COVID-19 on our community please refer to our website as information is changing daily and this is the best way to ensure you have the most up-to-date information.

Break O'Day facility closures


Due to the Federal Government Regulations announced on Sunday 22 March 2020 by the Prime Minister of Australia on 'Places of Social Gatherings', Council wishes to advise that the following facilities are now closed:

- Bendigo Community Stadium, St Helens, which includes the outdoor spaces associated with the Stadium (Netball Courts).
- Fingal Recreation Ground building;
- St Helens Football Change rooms; and
- St Marys Football Clubrooms

However; we also advise that if you wish to proceed with any non-essential indoor social gatherings within or on a Council Facility, then you are to please also adhere to the regulations on social gatherings.


For more information go to www.health.gov.au.


We recommend that you check in regularly with COVID-19 information as it is changing rapidly.





Protecting yourself from coronavirus


Following this advice and practising hygienic respiratory etiquette can help slow the spread of COVID-19

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Wash your hands frequently for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer
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Cover your cough and sneeze with your elbow or a tissue, then dispose of the tissue in a rubbish bin
- 

If unwell, avoid contact with others (stay more than 1.5 metres from people)
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Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces regularly
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Stay home if you are feeling unwell

Practising good hand and sneeze/cough hygiene is the best defence against most viruses

Coronavirus is most likely spread from person-to-person through direct or close contact

For more information, visit www.health.tas.gov.au/coronavirus



Capital Works Projects - March/April

- Talbot Street, Fingal – Road reconstruction and sealing complete by end of March (Weather permitting)
- Brown Street, Fingal – Pavement rehabilitation progressing well with completion scheduled for end of March. (Weather permitting.)
- Playground maintenance –
 - Scamander Playground in progress
 - St Marys completed
 - Fingal completed
- Scamander footpath works are progressing with anticipated completion by the end of April. (Weather permitting).

Lottah Road, Goshen

We will start works on Lottah Rd, Goshen this week including four separate sites between Sweets Hill Road intersection and the Poimena Intersection. These works are anticipated to take 8 weeks. Works include; identifying further improvements, installing guard rails, sealing and widening in areas and minor realignments. There will be no road closures but there may be some disruption so please look out for signage and our workers.

This Road work was made possible with funding from the Australian Government's Roads to Recovery program.

Anson Bay Rd Sealing at MTB Crossing

Due to safety concerns around dust and visibility, we are sealing the 200m stretch of road where the mountain bikers riding the Bay of Fires trail cross Ansons Bay Road. We would like to remind all users of the road, both vehicle and cyclist, to obey signage in place. Cyclists are asked to give way at the road and dismount to cross, vehicles are asked to slow down as indicated by signage and look out for cyclists.

Weed of the month- Spanish Heath



Spanish heath is one of Break O'Day's most serious invasive weeds. It's an early season flowering shrub carrying millions of tiny seeds by late winter. Landowners are obliged to contain and control Spanish heath and everyone

can do their bit to reduce its spread. It requires well timed treatments to control and the next few months are the best. Spanish heath can be hand dug (roots and cut stems can re-sprout) or treated with herbicides (spraying or using the cut-stump method). Find and treat isolated plants first and follow-up next season. Slashing dense patches can reduce seeding this season, but must be before flowering and is not enough control. Do not mow or slash after flowering and be very 'hygienic' around Spanish heath. Get more detailed information via: www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/invasive-species

Coronavirus
(COVID-19)

KEEPING YOUR DISTANCE.

Help stop the spread of coronavirus by keeping your distance. Remember, don't shake hands or exchange physical greetings. Wherever possible stay 1.5 metres apart and practise good hand hygiene, especially after being in public places.

TOGETHER WE CAN HELP STOP THE SPREAD AND STAY HEALTHY.

Advice regarding **Coronavirus (COVID-19)** will change regularly. Keep up to date. Visit health.gov.au

HELP STOP THE SPREAD AND STAY HEALTHY

1.5M

Australian Government