

**Next Council Meetings:  
19 April and 17 May at 10am at the Council Chambers, St Helens**

## From General Manager - John Brown

I thought I knew what I was going to talk about in this month's Newsletter. It was going to be about the PESRAC Report (the State Government's special committee looking at what our Covid response needed to look like) and then along came a State Election!!! This is not really a surprise given what we had been seeing happen in the Halls of Power down South. So, for the next month we are going to be bombarded with policy announcements and promises from all directions until the day when we cast our vote. Setting that aside the next few weeks is really important to us as a community. It is a time when we lobby for projects and commitments which are important to communities in the Break O'Day area. Several months ago the Council discussed a number of projects for both the State and Federal elections which we knew would happen in the next 18 months. Since that time we have been developing our arguments around things such as completing the Multi-user Track around the Georges Bay Foreshore in the Parnella/Stieglitz area; replacement of the St Helens Police Station and further upgrading of the Tasman Highway between the bottom of the St Marys Pass and the Gladstone Road turnoff near Moorina. We will be watching closely announcements as they are released by all parties. The first major one we have seen which directly relates to our area is the creation of a Jobs Hub here at St Helens. From what we understand from the limited detail available at the moment the success of Break O'Day Employment Connect in meeting the needs of job seekers and employers has been seen and appreciated and they want to build on this through their Local Jobs for Local People program. It will certainly be interesting to see what else appears in the next few weeks.



## Keep it Clean - Your Bike we mean

Have you checked out the St Helens MTB Bike Hygiene video yet starring local MTB gromit Kole? You can find it on the St Helens MTB page under the Safety tab.

Although the video might give you a few laughs, there is a very serious reason why we have installed three Hygiene Stations across the MTB Network.

Root Rot or *Phytophthora cinnamomi* (PC) is a fungal disease that is spread by dirt that can kill native plants very quickly. It is most commonly moved around by animals such as wombats

and echidnas but it can also be carried on boots by walkers or bikes by riders. While Council has a management plan for the spread of the disease as well as weeds across the network, MTB riders play a crucial role in stopping the spread by spraying their bikes and shoes as well as staying on trail. Simply by either using the washdown station or helping others who are visiting the network understand the importance of the stations, coming with a clean bike and how to use the hygiene station correctly will go a long way to stopping the spread.

## COVID Clinic Now open in St Helens

The St Helens Respiratory Clinic is now open offering Covid-19 vaccinations and testing for eligible patients. The clinic is operating out of the Old St Helens Hospital site and parking for the clinic has been put in place on Circassian Street.

The Clinic is currently vaccinating Phase 1b eligible patients including Healthcare Workers, Patients over 70 years of age, patients over 55 years of age who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and patients with a chronic health condition.

**Please check your eligibility at [www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au](http://www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au).**

Covid-19 Vaccinations are offered Monday, Tuesday and Thursday

mornings from 9am by appointment only.

Covid-19 Testing is offered Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons from 1pm by appointment only.

**If you require an appointment for a vaccination please call 03 6351 0007.**

If you require an appointment for any respiratory conditions including a Covid-19 test please book an appointment and complete the registration process at [hotdoc.com.au](http://hotdoc.com.au) and searching St Helens Respiratory Clinic or call 03 6351 0007.

The Clinic is currently experiencing a high demand of phone calls, your patience and understanding is appreciated.



Pictured above is the Velvet Worm. Break O'Day is home to two species of rare and unique velvet worm. If you get a chance google them.... they are pretty amazing!

## Break O'Day Velvet Worm Action Awards - small grants available

Have you got a project or activity happening or in the works that will help the natural environment in Break O'Day, but need funding support? Break O'Day Council's 2021 Velvet Worm NRM Action Awards are now open.

This project provides small grants for environment focussed projects or activities that involve the youth of Break O'Day.

There are four criteria applications should address:

- Youth involvement,
- How the natural environment is improved and/or people's awareness and appreciation of the environment
- The capacity people bring to do the project
- Links to priorities of the Break O'Day Environment and Natural

Resource Management Strategy 2019 and Action Plan 2018-2023 (available on Council's website).

Applications using the Awards guidelines and form must be received at the Council office in St Helens by Sunday 2 May 2021 - emailed (admin@bodc.tas.gov.au), delivered or posted (32-34 Georges Bay Esp. St Helens 7216).

You can find more information including the guidelines and application form from our website under My Environment / Natural Resource Management/ Velvet Worm NRM Action Awards or drop in to the office.

Contact council if you have any queries and for help with your project ideas.

## Keep up to date on Council activities

Did you know that research shows that the most effective way to communicate with people is through direct email? Over the last few years we have used various ways to communicate with our community from hard copy letters to social media but the most effective way seems to be through direct email. When we did Community Consultation project for COVID Recovery, Park, Snack and Chat, we asked community members: "We want to make sure our community has all the information you need so what are the best ways for us to communicate with you?" Out of the 242 residents who answered this question, more than

50% of respondents stated that their preferred method of communication was through direct email.

As a result we have been building email databases that we can use to directly communicate with you on a variety of topics. This includes databases for: The Business Community, Townships and this newsletter. If you or your business would like to be included on any of these databases please email [Jayne.richardson@bodc.tas.gov.au](mailto:Jayne.richardson@bodc.tas.gov.au) specifying which database you would like to be included on.

## IN BRIEF Rates instalment Due

The fourth and final rates instalment is due on May 4. Please note that BPAY and postal payments can take a few days to reach our account. Did you know that there a range of ways you can pay your rates and you can even opt to receive your rates notices via email. Check out our website under My Property/Rates where you will find information on payment methods and how rates are calculated.

## Responsible dog ownership

We will be sending out Dog registration reminders at the start of May. This year we will also be sending them out with an information sheet on being a responsible Dog Owner this will include a QR code that links straight to a map of the Dog Management Zones.

If you live in our area and have an unregistered dog please get in touch with us as it is a legal requirement that dogs are registered with us. If you have any questions, we have a series of frequently asked questions regarding Dog ownership on our website under My Property / Dogs.

## Community Consultation

From time to time Council undertakes community consultation to gather feedback from our residents on a wide range of topics. Often this consultation is specifically targeted to certain groups or townships – this is why it is good for you to be on one of our email databases. However, we do place our community consultation on our website under My Community/Community Consultation so that it is a transparent process, this is also where we publish the results of the surveys.

## Playground Works

We will be starting painting of the Scamander playground on 26 April, weather dependent. We will be closing the playground for a week to do this. We have timed this work for after the Easter holiday period so that there would be minimal disruption.

After Easter we will be installing a shade sail near the BBQ area to provide shade to users of this area.



## COVID Updates for businesses

The state government has now made it mandatory from May 1 for certain businesses to use the COVID Check in Tas App. This App allows customers to scan a QR code which will automatically record their details for contact tracing if ever required. You can find more information on the State Government's website, [www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au](http://www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au). It is also really important that businesses have their COVID Plans in place as these are now being checked by Work Safe Tasmania. If you need help with either of these things, please contact Nick Crawford from the Business Enterprise Centre (BEC) who has also offered to help businesses with the App and Covid Safety Plans if they require assistance. Email Nick at [manager@smallbusiness.org.au](mailto:manager@smallbusiness.org.au) or call 6376 2044



## Promoting our area - FLOW MTB

At the beginning of the year Tourism Tasmania funded FLOW MTB to produce two videos on our area; one featuring the Bay of Fires Trail and the second featuring the St Helens Network. We helped put them in touch with locals and develop the brief for these videos ensuring that both videos would also feature the area as destination highlighting other activities to do while visitors are here – the idea is to keep visitors here as long as possible! Both videos titled Part one and Part two have dropped on social media on their channels as well as the St Helens MTB Network – check them out, you might see some familiar faces!



## Community Seat/ Table Sponsorship

Did you know that Council has a sponsorship program that allows the community and community groups to sponsor a table or bench seat?

The sponsorship package is between \$1000 - \$1500 and includes a plaque with your choice of wording -subject to Council approval.

The seats and tables can be used to celebrate a birthday or anniversary or could be to or commemorate a lost loved one. The sponsor is also able to choose whether they would like a bench seat or table and can choose a location (restrictions do apply).

For more information and an application form head to our website; My Community/Community Resources

## Welcome to our new employee and resident Leah Page

Leah Page has stepped into the role of Mental Health and Wellbeing Coordinator for Break O'Day Council and will now be coordinating the Wellbeing Project. Leah has moved to the area after being a part-time resident for nearly 5 years. Leah loves working with and for community and has a background in community development, sustainability, project management, education and volunteer coordination.

Leah has hit the ground running and has been out and about meeting members of the community and attending the Wellbeing Workshops to gain a grass roots understanding of what our community see and want in terms of fostering positive wellbeing across the area.

## WHATS ON

### Pyengana Easter Carnival 3 and 4 April

Woodchopping, BBQ, licenced bar, bullock display, sheep dog trails, market stalls and more. Head to their Facebook page for more information.

### St Marys Scooter Comp 11 April

Organised by Youth Collective North East Coast Tas this event will be held between 12noon - 5pm at the St Marys Skate Park, Story Street. Sponsored by Scooter Stop, Council and the SES. There will be prizes on offer.

### Swimcart Surf Fishing Competition 17 and 18 April

Kicks off at 10:30am. See their Facebook page for more information.

### St Helens Markets

**Every Saturday from 9am - 1pm**

Drop by the St Helens Markets in the Portland Hall and bag yourself a locally crafted gift or some fresh produce.

**Do you have a community event or activity you would like us to promote?**  
Please email  
[erica.mckinnell@bodc.tas.gov.au](mailto:erica.mckinnell@bodc.tas.gov.au)

## We are hiring!

There are two FTE positions available for various administrative tasks; applicants desiring less than full work days/weeks are encouraged to apply.

One position will require proven capability/experience in Records Management systems. For the other position, capability and/or experience in a range of finance, payroll, rating and administrative areas is desirable, as is local government experience. Both positions have a strong customer service focus; building positive working relationships within the organisation as well as the wider community and actively participating in initiatives to streamline and improve Council processes.

Council is keen to hear from applicants who are customer service and process driven, have a can do attitude, strong work ethic and an exceptional willingness to learn.

More information including the application form is available on our website

## Capital Works

### Upcoming and Completed Works:

- Shared Path construction that connects the Georges Bay Multi-User track continues. Completed sections include: Bridge and track at Kirwans Beach and establishment of track out the front of the Bayside Hotel.

(Pictured below, track works at Kirwans).



- Ansons Bay Road - Preparation work and reconstruction has been undertaken in readiness for re-sealing.

**Crews remain busy cleaning up damage from the flooding experienced last week. This is anticipated to take another three weeks.**

Pictured Below: St Marys Skate Park in flood



# MULCH \$20M<sup>3</sup>

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**

## 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](http://www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/invasive-species)

## Council Works Updates

### Skyline Drive

Council will be undertaking some road works on behalf of State Growth at the intersection of Skyline Drive and the Tasman Hwy in Beaumaris between April 12 to 30. These works will include:

- Designating a permanent bus stop
- Shoulder widening
- Some kerb and channel
- Footpath installation
- Traffic island installation.

There should be minimal disruption as we undertake these works but we ask that vehicles obey reduced speed limit and any other signage in place and most importantly, watch out for our workers.

You can find the technical drawings for this project on our website under Works and Services/Current Works.

### Gardens Road

These works, which aim to improve sight distances and construct a designated bus stops and footpath are progressing well.

A new intersection on the corner of Lyall Road and the bus stop area have been completed, kerb and channel as well as designated footpath areas have been established. Much of the footpath and kerb and channel will be completed in time for Easter with some footpath the road sealing works held off until after Easter to minimise any traffic impacts over the holiday

period.

After Easter, the old bitumen surface will be torn up at both Southern and Northern ends of the work site so the Jeanneret Crescent intersection can be reconstructed and there will be smooth transitions between new and existing sections of Gardens Road. Bitumen sealing and installation of guardrails will then complete the project.

### St Helens Point Road

We have now completed kerb and channel on the St Helens Point Road project. This means that kerb and channel has now been installed on both sides of the road from Aerodrome Road to the eastern end of Treloggens Track. Previously poured sections have been backfilled and pavement construction is proceeding along those road edges. The full road width including the new parking lane will be open for Easter. After Easter the contractor will proceed with some pavement repairs and driveway reinstatements before bitumen sealing.

