

Next Council Meetings:
14 April 2025 and 19 May 2025 at 10am in the Council Chambers

From the Acting General Manager - Raoul Harper

Did you know that whenever there's a State or Federal election, Break O'Day Council actively advocates for key projects that directly benefit our community? Elections are more than just choosing representatives—they're opportunities to shape the future of the region.

With the upcoming Federal Election, Council has identified and shared a list of Priority Projects with candidates running for the Federal seat of Lyons. These projects reflect the community's current needs and future aspirations. The aim is to ensure that whoever represents Break O'Day in Parliament understands what's important locally and can effectively advocate for these projects.

Current Priority Projects include:

- St Marys Pass Alternative Route
- Georges Bay Multi-User Foreshore Track – Parnella Linkage
- Early Learning Centre in St Marys
- St Helens Community Square
- St Marys to Cornwall Multi-User Trail
- Bowling Green Improvements at Scamander Sports Complex

You might notice some popular ideas, such as an Aquatic Centre, aren't on this list yet. This is because an Aquatic Centre would be the largest financial investment ever undertaken by Council, and it's essential first to thoroughly investigate feasibility and clearly understand community support. Only once all the facts are available and the community has been fully consulted will Council consider seeking funding for this type of project.

Election commitments can often secure funding for important community projects. That's why voting is important. By participating in elections, you can have a real impact on the direction and future of Break O'Day. To learn more about the Priority Projects, please visit the Council website under 'Council Strategies/Plans and Documents.'

New Community Spaces Open in the Heart of the Fingal Valley



Photo: Community comes together to explore the new centre and its facilities.

The spirit of community was on full display on Friday, 14 March, as Break O'Day Council and Federal Member for Lyons, Brian Mitchell, officially opened two vital new facilities in the Fingal Valley—the Fingal Community Shed and the St Marys Multi-purpose and Evacuation Building.

Funded through the Federal Government's Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grants Program, these buildings represent resilience, collaboration, and community-driven progress.

To mark the occasion, members of the Fingal Shed gathered in their brand-new venue, showcasing their skills while welcoming visitors with a homemade morning tea. The space is set to become a hub for creativity, connection, and shared learning.

Celebrations continued in St Marys, where Mr Mitchell officially opened the Multi-purpose and Evacuation Building. Designed by Edward and Simpson in consultation with community and user groups, the building includes a flexible gym space, commercial kitchen, changing rooms, storage, and amenities. Most importantly, it serves as a purpose-built evacuation centre, ensuring residents have a safe, fully equipped refuge during emergencies. Mayor Mick Tucker praised the collaborative effort, stating, "These new facilities show what can be achieved when the Australian Government, Council, and the community unite. They

provide invaluable spaces for residents to gather, create, and stay safe in times of need."

With the ability to accommodate evacuees and support essential services,



Photo: The new sign on the centre by artist Mel Fidler

the facility is an example of forward-thinking community planning. Council staff have been trained to manage an evacuation centre if needed.

The St Marys community explored the building during a special open day, featuring the unveiling of a striking sign by local artist Mel Fidler. The artwork, proudly displayed on the building, captures the essence of the Fingal Valley with endemic flora, fauna, and iconic landmarks.

"These buildings are more than just infrastructure; they are places where our community can come together for creativity, sport, or support," Mayor Tucker concluded.

These facilities reinforce the strength and spirit of the Fingal Valley community, ensuring support for generations to come.

New Young Crew Members Join Break O'Day's Live4Life Program



Photo: L-R back row: Isabel, Milly, Charlotte, Casey, Lachlan, Lowen, Dusty, front row L-R: Harrison, Bridie, Nikki, Lachlan, Talon, Max

Live4Life Break O'Day is pleased to welcome 10 new young people to the Live4Life Crew as of 11 March 2025. This is the first step for these committed and caring young people in becoming local community leaders and Mental Health Ambassadors.

Live4Life is an award-winning program protecting young lives in rural communities through mental health education to help reduce suicide. Crews made up of Year 9 and 10 volunteers are a leading component of the program.

Council is honoured to support this important initiative, which helps young people understand mental health, reduce stigma, and encourage others to seek help when needed. The Live4Life Crew will develop a theme for

2025, plan events, and share important mental health messages.

Since starting in 2010, the Live4Life program has reached over 29,000 young people, providing them with evidence-based mental health education. In 2024, 297 new members joined the Live4Life Crew, bringing the total to over 1,470 young people trained as Mental Health Ambassadors. This program has been made possible through funding from the Federal Government's National Suicide Prevention Leadership and Support Program (NSPLSP) for Live4Life Break O'Day.

We congratulate the new Live4Life Crew members and look forward to the positive impact they will have on our community.

Bendigo Bank Community Stadium – What's On

It's a big month ahead at the Stadium, with two major community sports competitions kicking off!

The 2025 St Helens Basketball Junior and Senior Competition starts on Monday 28 April, running from 4PM to 7PM. Meanwhile, the St Helens Netball Association roster begins on Friday, 2nd May, with the first game starting at 4PM.

Both competitions are seeing record participation, with over 120 people

already registered for basketball and 160 players for netball. It's a fantastic time to get involved—whether as a player or a spectator!

Come down, cheer on the teams, and enjoy the great atmosphere. Plus, the netball canteen is open on Friday nights, making it the perfect excuse to grab a bite to eat while supporting local sport! – And thank you to Bendigo Bank for their continued sponsorship of the building.

IN BRIEF

REPORT FERAL ANIMALS APP

Did you know there's an app and website for reporting feral animals?

FeralScan is a national service that lets you report a variety of feral animals, either through an app on your phone or via their website. The information and data collected can be shared with government agencies to help better understand feral animal populations in an area. Common feral animals that can be reported through this service include rabbits, deer, and cats.

More information at www.feralscan.org.au/

ST MARYS AND EAST COAST CHILDCARE NEEDS ANALYSIS

Council is pleased to announce that Ninety Mile Consulting has been awarded the contract to undertake the St Marys and East Coast Tasmania Childcare Needs Analysis.

This important project will assess childcare needs across our region, supporting future planning and ensuring families have access to the services they need.

We look forward to working with Ninety Mile Consulting and will continue to keep the community informed as the project progresses.

OFFICE CLOSURE

Our office will be closed 18-23 April for Easter and 25 April for ANZAC Day.

VOTE NOW: VOLUNTEER FILM FESTIVAL IN NATIONAL AWARDS

Council has entered the Volunteer Film Festival 2024 into the National Awards for Local Government!

The National Local Government Awards celebrate outstanding projects in local government, and we're excited to showcase the volunteer spirit of our community.

We need your support — cast your vote for Break O'Day to help us celebrate our volunteers.

Go to www.bodc.tas.gov.au/community/our-volunteers and click on the link to the National Local Government awards.

Voting closes on 28 April, so don't miss your chance to support our community. Let's show Australia what Break O'Day can do!

"I'm a reflection of the community."
– Tupac Shakur

Break O'Day Volunteer Film Festival – Lights, Camera, Volunteer!

We loved walking the red carpet with so many of you last year at our award-winning Break O'Day Volunteer Film Festival—a celebration of the incredible volunteers who make our community thrive.

Now, it's time to do it all again! As part of National Volunteer Week, we're bringing back the festival for another round of creativity, storytelling, and appreciation for our local volunteers.

Wellbeing Project: Opportunities to Get Involved Before It Wraps Up

The Wellbeing Project has been part of Break O'Day since 2021, funded by a grant from the Tasmanian Community Fund, with support from Break O'Day Council and the generous involvement of many in our community. While all grants eventually end, there's still much happening before our time wraps up in June this year.

We hope you can get involved! Visit www.wellbeingaction.org to learn more. Explore the Local Actions page and the Wellbeing Summit page for ideas on how you can contribute. If you've participated in the certificate or summit and your local action idea is still developing, we can help bring it to life. Or if you have a new idea that could create wellbeing, contact our Wellbeing Team for support. We've been brainstorming throughout the project and can connect you to

A huge thank you to everyone who took part last year! If you missed the chance to make a film, now is the perfect opportunity to join in. This is your moment to showcase your volunteer organisation, share your story, and inspire others to get involved.

All the details on how to participate www.bodc.tas.gov.au/community/volunteering/

resources and opportunities. Contact Leah at Break O'Day Council via wellbeing@bodc.tas.gov.au.

If you've been involved or seen impacts from the Wellbeing Project, we'd love to hear from you. Help us gather valuable feedback by sharing your experience with the University of Tasmania's evaluation team. Reach out to the Centre for Rural Health (UTAS) or email Laura Grattidge at laura.grattidge@utas.edu.au.

Have a positive story to share? Fiona Perrin and Barbara Longue, both former Wellbeing Certificate recipients, are excited to capture short stories of positivity for our podcast series. To participate, contact Fiona at tassiechats@gmail.com or Barbara at blongue@gmail.com.

WHAT'S ON

The Lighthouse - Every Wednesday

Serving the Break O'Day community, The Lighthouse is a safe place where you can enjoy a free cuppa, hot soup and roll, warm beanies and scarves or a friendly chat.

Open every Wednesday, 11am-1pm at the Anglican Hall - 56 Cecilia Street, St Helens.

Pyengana Easter Carnival - Easter Weekend 19-20 April

Get eggcited! Celebrate easter weekend at the Pyengana Recreation Grounds St Columba Falls Road. Woodchopping, sheep dog trials, food stalls, raffles and more. Entry \$5 per person. Gates open 8am for 9am start. Camping sites available. Contact Joe Rattray joechop@yahoo.com

Please note cash sales only.

ANZAC Day Services - Friday 25 April

A time to remember and honour the brave men and women who served our country.

St Helens Memorial Park:

Dawn and 11am.

St Marys War Memorial:

11am

Fingal Cenotaph:

Dawn

Mathinna War Memorial:

11am

Pyengana Heritage Fooball Game - Saturday 3 May

Come support the East Coast Swans at the annual heritage game at the Pyengana Recreation Grounds St Columba Falls Road. Contact sthelensfootball@gmail.com or keep an eye out on their facebook page for more details.

Winter Lights Solice Festival - 21 June

Fun for all ages. Live music, lantern making, face painting, Serpenterium keeper show, fire sculpture and more. St Marys Town Hal Contact bodregionalsarts@gmail.com for more information. Scan the QR code to book your tickets.



Festival of Voices - Saturday 28 June

All your favourite country pub classics in an epic singalong with Beccy Cole. 2pm at Easy Tiger Cinemas, St Helens. Tickets from \$22. For more information or to book tickets visit www.festivalofvoices.com/events/country-pub-chorus-st-helens

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.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

GET IN2GEAR

Learner Driver Mentors

Experienced drivers wanted. Spend one hour a week helping someone in your community get their licence. Car provided.

The Learner Driver Mentor Program relies on the generosity of local volunteers. Supported by funding from the Tasmanian Government and Break O'Day Council.

Contact Jenna 6376 7900

community.services@bodc.tas.gov.au

bodc.tas.gov.au/community/community-resources/



MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Council Works Reports

- Cecilia Street Bridge replacement – work nearing completion
- Fingal pump track – completed



- North Ansons Road resheeting has commenced
- Grays Road footpath extension – finishing touches, completion mid April



- Alexander Street Cornwall – stormwater improvements, rehabilitation of existing sections of road pavement and resealing work is underway

WEED MANAGEMENT

- **Fingal** - Patterson's Curse, broadleaf, Spanish heath, gorse, thistles, broom, hemlock, capeweed
- **St Helens** - Spanish heath, thistles, broom
- **Binalong Bay** – mirror bush
- **Scamander** - broadleaf, Spanish heath
- **Cornwall** - Weed survey Spanish heath, blackberry

DOG STATISTICS MARCH 2025

Urban Patrols = 2
 Beach Patrols = 6
 Infringements = 0
 Unregistered Dog = 0
 Impounded dogs = 1

Weed of the Month - pampas grass

Pampas grass is a Declared Pest that spreads aggressively by tiny windblown seeds that grow into very large tussocks. Relatively small numbers persist in parts of Break O'Day despite efforts over the years to eradicate it.

In autumn new growth and large pink or white flower heads make pampas easy to spot for control. 'Deadhead' the flowers first by cutting them off carefully to not lose seeds in the wind and bagging them securely. The dense roots can be dug and pulled out if plants are small, or larger ones if you have time

on your hands and need the exercise! Treatment with herbicide is effective for large plants.

For more information on identification, treatment and control look up pampas grasses on the 'declared-weeds-index' at nre.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/weeds



Georges Bay's Ostrea Angasi Oyster Reefs

Georges Bay is home to some of the healthiest Ostrea angasi oyster reefs in Australia, despite past overharvesting. These reefs are important for marine life and help keep the water clean, making the Bay a special place for locals and visitors. However, a new federal report suggests the reefs could be listed as Critically Endangered because there are only a few remaining in southern Australia.

Council has submitted feedback, supporting the idea of protecting the reefs but also ensuring that community activities like fishing, boating, and oyster farming can continue. The Council believes in balancing

conservation efforts with everyday activities and wants to make sure the reefs stay healthy while still allowing people to enjoy and use the Bay.

If the reefs are listed as threatened, the goal is to manage the activities around the Bay to protect the reefs without negatively affecting what people do. The Council is committed to keeping the Bay a healthy and thriving place for the community, local businesses, and future generations.

For more information visit www.bodc.tas.gov.au/community/news-events

ABC's Heywire Grant Program

Grants of up to \$10,000 are available for communities across regional Australia to adopt, adapt, and take action on the six ideas generated at the Heywire Summit 2025.

Community organisations are now invited to apply. The grants close on April 30. To apply, visit the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal website at www.frrr.org.au

Join for a month of community action, cleaning up spectacular beaches, parks and waterways on Tasmania's East Coast. Join a local community group or register your own activity.

Scan the QR code or visit www.register.cleanup.org.au/hub-pages/gectcu

For more information contact mel.fazackerley@landscaperecovery.org

