

Next Council Meeting:
May 21 at 10am and June 25 at 10am

Message from Bob Hoogland Acting General Manager

Last week we experienced a weather event that could have caused our community great concern, but luckily we escaped the worst of it with no damage reported to Council infrastructure however a few homes and businesses were not so lucky.

One thing that always impresses me during these events is the amazing work of our Emergency Services that largely depend on volunteers.

Organisations like the SES, Ambulance and Fire brigade are all volunteer based and I would like to take a moment here just to thank them for their ongoing dedication to our community.

There are many organisations that pool together during these events to ensure public safety. While the SES focuses on threats and damage to private property, Council's responsibility is with Council owned infrastructure, for example roads, bridges and Council owned buildings; the State Government is responsible for state owned infrastructure like main roads and bridges.

While the community might not see Council staff, aside from the works crews, out and about physically dealing with damage during an emergency event, there is a lot of work that goes on behind the scenes.

During a situation like last Friday, admin staff are busy fielding calls of reports of damage which are all logged and triaged to the most appropriate department. Of course the works crews are also very busy driving from one end of the municipality to the other removing fallen trees, clearing gutters, checking roads and causeways and all other Council owned infrastructure depending on the calls being received by admin.

I would also like to comment on the issue of Council having to remove trees. Trees are only removed on the basis of evidence and risk. We are very aware of the important roles mature trees play environmentally and socially and Council's policies, approach and desire is only to remove trees as a last resort and based on arborists' recommendations.



Byron Beggs is one of the artists featured in the open Studio trail, Secret People, Secret Places.

Warm up this winter at the Bay of Fires Winter Arts Festival this June long weekend

It's going to be a jam packed Bay of Fires Winter Arts Festival this year with more to see, do, taste and just enjoy than ever before.

A real credit to the small team of dedicated volunteers that get this event off the ground every year, the Bay of Fires Winter Arts Festival is as much about exploring the arts scene as it is about supporting our local business community during the winter visitation drop-off.

As always, the event kicks off with the prestigious Bay of Fires Art Prize, a coveted \$20,000 competition that attracts some of the best artists, not just in the state but nationally and internationally as well.

This year the organisers have managed to attract the Nelipot Collective, a group of Tasmanian artists who explore the relationship between the environment

and society. This group will bring their performance, Adrift to the festival which explores connections between the oceans and will also be conducting school workshops.

The ever popular Arts market has not only grown with new and exciting exhibitors this year, it will now run over the two days and include a twilight market for the first time on Saturday from 2pm-9pm. The twilight market will be a-buzz with live music, yummy treats and more.

Due to its popularity, the arts trail, Secret People, Secret Places, has also grown this year as more of our local artists open their studios and homes for you to view their works.

You will certainly be spoilt for choice at this year's event so invite all your family and friends to experience the vibrancy of the East Coast in Winter!



Some of last year's SCAMJAM participants shredding it at the Scamander River Mouth Skate bowl.

Free event SCAMJAM returns to the coast

Due to the success of last year's event, Break O'Day Council will host a scooter and BMX competition called SCAMJAM on May 26.

A partnership between Council, the Break O'Day Youth Advisory committee and local business, Break O'Day Cycles, the event is open to all ages and held at the Scamander River Mouth Skate Park from 10am to 2pm.

"In a regional community like ours, often the needs of the youth go overlooked and this is something we are working hard to remedy in Break O'Day," Mayor Mick Tucker said.

"We want to provide our youth with

an environment that is vibrant and facilitates their needs and fosters interests, this event is a great example of how we can, and should, work with youth for youth."

Last year's event attracted a field of more than 30 local youth, some even scootering and riding all the way to Scamander from St Helens to be a part of the event.

The event involves plenty of prizes which have been donated by Break O'Day Cycles and Council will be providing a free barbecue.

A really family fun event, it is free to enter the competition.

Learning to drive program benefits the whole community - Mary-Ann's story

Break O'Day Council's Get in 2 Gear learner driver mentor program is not only helping people in the community get their licence, it has spin-offs for the entire community.

When Break O'Day Enrolled Nurse, Mary-Ann Custodio Brown registered with the program in November 2016, she was a very nervous driver that didn't even know the brake from the accelerator. However, Mary-Ann was determined to get her licence as she wanted to be able to give back to her local community by becoming a volunteer ambulance driver.

As a small regional community, Break O'Day often struggles to find the volunteer network required to support integral volunteer services like

ambulance, fire and SES.

After two months of driving around the local Sports Complex, Mary-Ann finally had the confidence she needed to be able to drive on the road.

Now 12 months later, Mary-Ann has followed her dream and is currently volunteering as an ambulance driver in the area.

"People often underestimate how important programs like this are to our community," Mayor Mick Tucker said.

"This is just one success story from a long list of participants who have gone on to achieve employment, quality of life and even a boost to self-confidence, all by connecting with others in the community and learning to drive."

IN BRIEF

St Helens Sewage works -TasWater Update

After nine months of sewage upgrade works in St Helens, TasWater is about to start work upgrading the St Helens sewage pump station.

This work is being undertaken on the St Helens foreshore and will cause some disruption to the carpark. TasWater are aware of this and will be directly contacting businesses that may be affected by these works, they will also put signage in place to advise the general public of the works.

Any damage done during the works will be reinstated by TasWater on completion.

This work is necessary and will significantly increase the efficiency of the sewage system and reduce sewage overflow into Georges Bay.

If you have any inquiries please contact Ivan Zwart on 13 6992 or email enquiries@taswater.com.au.

Beauty Bay Shower

TasWater has donated and installed an outdoor shower at Beauty Bay.

Requested by some super keen community members, the 'Happy Fish' who swim in the bay nearly every morning, rain hail or shine, the shower means that you can now rinse off the salt and sand after enjoying the water.

Beauty Bay is a popular family spot for barbecues and on-water recreational activities and this shower complements Council's installation of a new toilet block and barbecue facility last year.

Looking for transport volunteers on the EC

Do have some spare time and like being behind the wheel? Community Transport Services Tasmania have expanded their service and are looking for volunteer drivers in our area.

The service provides an affordable, door-to-door transport service for people over 65 and people with a disability. For more information call 1800 781 033 or visit ctst.org.au

90 minutes that can change a life

A message from the THRIVE Mentoring Program

What is mentoring?

Mentoring provides a student at St Helens District High School with a caring and supportive relationship that can help them through school and enable them to be better equipped for further education and future employment. Every mentoring relationship is designed to be flexible to meet each student's specific individual needs and ultimately to improve their self-esteem, associated health and overall outcomes and attendance at school.

Become a mentor Now recruiting. Would you like to make a difference

in the life of a young person? Do you have one and a half hours per week to spare? THRIVE Mentoring provides training and ongoing support to our volunteers. For more information and/or to register your interest for our 2018 Mentoring Program please contact Simon at St Helens Neighborhood House on 6376 1134 or mentoring@sthelensnhh.org.au.

An initiative of THRIVE (which is a partnership of St Helens District High School; Break O' Day Council, St Helens Literacy Program and St Helens Neighborhood House).

Savings from un-utilised Council land to go back to the community

On Monday May 21 and Wednesday May 23, Council will be advertising the disposal of un-utilised Council land. The advertisement will include addresses of properties and further information can be obtained by calling the main office on 6376 7900.

Much of this land is public open space and was identified through the development of the Municipal Management Plan as surplus to the needs of Council.

This is not a revenue raising exercise but rather an opportunity to save on land taxes and maintenance costs with savings and proceeds from the sales

going back to community programs including the continued upgrade of recreational facilities.

Of the 11 identified parcels of land, five will first be offered to adjoining land owners and one to a conservation group before they are auctioned.

Advising the community of the disposal is just the first step in a lengthy process which may involve re-zoning (a lengthy process in itself) so it may be some time before they reach auction. Any objections to the disposal of this land will need to be received by 5pm Tuesday 12 June 2018. (21 days from last date advertised).

TasALERT.com – where you go to know

TasALERT is a Tasmanian emergency website providing a single source of official emergency information from across government, including Tasmania Police, Tasmania Fire Service, and State Emergency Service (SES).

It's important that we all have access to alerts and information to help us prepare to act quickly if an emergency happens. TasALERT makes it easy to find emergency information and warnings relevant to you or those you care about.

The map on the home page lets you choose the types of information you would like to see during an emergency, including bushfire warnings, flood warnings, road closures and school

closures.

The website also contains a range of handy resources like contact numbers and useful advice about what you should do before, during and after an emergency. This information has also been translated into other languages.

The TasALERT website has been built to be highly resilient during an emergency. It is also supported by the TasALERT Facebook and Twitter accounts. Through social media, you can get updates as they happen, and engage with the TasALERT team.

Like TasALERT on Facebook, follow on Twitter and check out the website: www.tasalert.com

COMING UP

EC Swans V Old Scotch

May 19

Check out our own East Coast Swans taking on Old Scotch at Pyengana. A family fun day out, the Pyengana community have been busy getting the grounds ready. The day starts at 10.15am with Auskickers from Scottsdale to St Marys. The reserves and seniors will play at 11.50 and 2pm respectively.

Million Paws Walk

May 20

Starting at Stieglitz Beach at 10am, this event raises funds for the RSPCA. Book your tickets online at www.millionpawswalk.com.au or grab them on the day.

Georges Bay Music

May 25

Georges Bay Music will conduct Lunch and Munch at Tidal Waters Resort, St Helens, on Friday May 25, from 12 noon till 2pm. Special meal deals, usual raffle and door prize and lucky card! Admission \$8 Members and \$12 Non-members. A wonderful way to meet old friends and make new ones!

Bay of Fires Winter Arts Festival

June 9-11

Be immersed in the vibrancy of Tasmania's East Coast over the June long weekend at the Bay of Fires Winter Arts Festival. Event includes, Arts markets, workshops, Arts trail, live music and much more. For more information go to, www.bayoffireswinterartsfestival.com.au.

St Marys Community Car and Bike Show

June 10

This will be the 12th annual Car and bike show held in St Marys and features an impressive display of vehicles right in the centre of town. The show runs from 10am - 2pm.

Field Archery Shoots

Every Sunday from 9am

Break O' Day Field Archery Club Inc invite all to join them for a fun morning of archery. No experience required. Cost \$10 per person + \$5 hire fees. Range located at 24627 Tasman Hwy, Dianas Basin. All enquiries phone Liane Gordon - 6376 1815

Old Codgers Meeting

Every Friday

St Helens Books and Coffee are offering men over 50 the chance to call in, enjoy a hot cuppa, play some cards/chess or just meet some new blokes. 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 0475 844 481.

Capital Works Projects - May

- Roses Tier Road resheeting is nearing completion after which the crew will head to Ansons Bay Rd to commence partial resheeting.
- Irishtown Rd resheeting is nearing completion after which the crew will head to Upper Scamander Road.
- Weed control has commenced in a small section of the Blue Tier adjacent to the mountain bike trail.
- As a result of the weather event on Friday May 11, crews have been busy removing fallen trees and repairing damaged roads.
- Penelope Street footpath has recommenced and if no delays are experienced it will be completed in two weeks.
- Picnic tables and seats are being upgraded at the St Marys Library Park to further enhance the area for public use.
- E-waste collection has now commenced with free drop-off available at all waste transfer stations. This project is funded by the Northern Tasmanian Waste Management Group of which Break O'Day Council is a member. Accepted items include: Televisions, computers including laptops and tablets, monitors and projectors, printers, power supplies and adapters, cables, parts and accessories.



Above: Look out for the E-waste collection bins at your nearest WTS. Below: New picnic tables on the St Helens foreshore



Weed of the month - Broom



Both Montpellier and English Broom are declared weeds within Tasmania. Both types of brooms are woody shrubs growing to 2 to 3m, have bright yellow flowers and produce seed pods that when open can cast the seed more

than 3 metres.

Brooms can establish themselves just about anywhere. They out compete native vegetation and can alter the habitat of native fauna.

May is a great time to treat broom and there are several ways to do this. Small plants can be easily hand pulled from the ground, larger isolated plants can be cut close to the base and painted with herbicide or larger infestations can be cut back and applied with herbicide when the new growth begins.

For more information please visit www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/weeds/

Dog Registration - Traveling Road show

Next week we will be sending out dog registration renewals so now is a good time to let us know if there have been any changes to you or your fur baby's situation since they were last registered.

Things we want to know are: Have you moved house? Have you changed your phone number? Do you still have your pet? Have you microchipped or desexed your dog since last year?

Because of the importance of registering your dog, we try to make it as easy as possible for you; those who pay their registration on or before COB June 30 will be eligible for an early

bird discount. This could be a saving of between \$3 and \$20 per dog! We also now include an additional discount for Healthcare card holders as well as pensioners.

Plus, if you live in the valley and you are finding it difficult to get to St Helens, we will also be visiting Fingal, Mathinna and St Marys on June 12 to make it easier. See below for details. We may also be able to assist with other Council enquiries on this day.

If you are still having problems making the payment, please give us a call so we can help.

FINGAL
Neighbourhood House
9am – 10.20am

MATHINNA
Post Office
11am 12.30pm

ST MARYS
Townhall
1.45pm – 3.15pm

TechCollect
Recycling e-waste responsibly

What we collect and recycle

All computers and tablets

All computer peripherals and accessories
(e.g. cables, keyboards, mice, hard-drives and webcams)

All printers, faxes, scanners and multi-functional devices

All TVs