

Next Council Meetings:
24 June at 10am and 15 July at 10am

From the General Manager John Brown

It would be with a sense of relief that the vast majority of us welcomed the silence in political advertising that descended on us the Thursday before the Federal Election. The lengthy bombardment of advertising we have had to endure for a number of months has tested our patience and sanity!

In the wash up from the election, we now have a reasonably clear understanding of what has been committed to the area in terms of project funding. A missing link in our ability to walk around the St Helens Foreshore will be addressed with \$2.1M to complete the section of the Georges Bay Foreshore Multi-User Track from the St Helens Wharf to Lawry Heights. Flooding is an ongoing challenge the community of St Marys faces and we will receive \$0.4M to undertake mitigation works in line with the recently completed St Marys Flood Mitigation Study. Following a few weeks of anxiety and stress, the Fingal community would be very relieved that \$0.5M is being provided to assist with renovation works at the Old Tasmanian Hotel, a vital focal point in this town and home to the Fingal Valley Neighbourhood House.

Council has a number of other priority projects we are working on which formed part of our Federal Election project list and we will continue to pursue these through our local politicians both at a State and Federal level.



Health Minister Michael Ferguson with Director of Nursing Denise Callister



Lyons MP John Tucker with Director of Nursing Denise Callister and Health Minister Michael Ferguson.



Some of the hardworking volunteers from the St Helens Hospital Auxiliary.

St Helens District Hospital Officially Opened

The Break O'Day Community now has a brand new, purpose built hospital. The hospital was officially opened on Thursday 16 May by Health Minister Michael Ferguson and local Lyons MP and ex-councillor John Tucker. Recognised as being one of the busiest regional facilities in the state the new hospital has been designed for functionality, practicality and to future proof the needs of our community. The new facility offers 10 inpatient beds, four emergency bays, four consultation rooms and two physio rooms. It also provides allied health services such as radiology, community nursing, oral health, education and training and community activities. The Emergency Department (ED) is huge and will certainly be the envy of many regional facilities.

The most amazing thing about the new hospital however, is the community backing the facility has received. Nothing illustrates this more than the work of the St Helens Hospital Auxiliary whom raised more than \$100,000 to fit out the Palliative Care Unit. The State Government were most impressed with these efforts and has formally thanked the Auxiliary.

Mayor Mick Tucker expressed his thanks to the State Government on behalf of the community for ensuring this project came to fruition.

"Seeing the new hospital open was a real highlight of my time with Council. It has been an honour to be a part of this project which will see our community's health needs catered for into the future." Mayor Tucker said.



Binalong Bay Breakwater Works

For many years the idea of a breakwater at the Binalong Bay Boat Ramp has been raised but the Binalong Bay Community Group was determined to see the break water become a reality and applied to MAST for funding.

MAST approved the funding and began designing a solution. The planning approval was announced with significant input from Parks and Wildlife Service in February 2017. The tender process to build the break water was advertised in late 2018 with work planned to commence after Easter this year.

This timing was specifically selected as it would have the least impact on users of the boat ramp.

The break water will be 74 metres long

8 metres wide and 3 metres above sea level (this is 2.2 metres above the highest astronomical tide level - HAT).

The project has not yet commenced but residents and visitors will notice that there is signage in place showing the work site etc. MAST will advertise when works are to commence through local papers as well as Social Media, Council will also promote this through our own channels once notified.

While the break water is being constructed, the Binalong Bay Boat Ramp will be closed and MAST suggests that boaters use the Burns Bay Boat ramp at St Helens Point as an alternative. The Burns Bay Boat Ramp does not require boaters to cross the St Helens barway.

Community Feedback sought on NRM Strategy

We want your input in determining our environmental and natural resource management priorities.

Council's Strategic Plan 2017-2027 set a sustainability goal for the Environment: *to balance our use of the natural environment to ensure that it is available for future generations to enjoy as we do*; to get there, Council's Natural Resource Management (NRM) Committee has reviewed the 2012 Strategy in order to develop and revise priorities that align with the Strategic Plan.

We all benefit and depend on our natural environment and resources so everyone, community and Council, have a role and responsibility in these plans. Both the Strategic Plan and the NRM Strategy will be used by Council to guide

what it can do, but there are activities residents, landholders, community groups, government agencies and industry can do as well.

There are two draft plans we want your comments on: a five year Action Plan detailing short term priorities, and a draft NRM Strategy.

You can download copies of the draft plans from Council's website (www.bodc.tas.gov.au/community/community-consultation/). Comments must be received by Council by 14 July 2019 – admin@bodc.tas.gov.au or post or deliver to our office in St Helens. Council's NRM Committee will consider submissions to develop final drafts for Council.

Asbestos dumping - an expensive and dangerous exercise

Recently we had to deal with the illegal dumping of asbestos at several of our Waste Transfer Stations (WTS).

The material dumped had been broken into fragments which means the person(s) involved may have been exposed to the potential health risk of inhaling asbestos fibres. This can result in the onset of asbestos related diseases. Through these irresponsible actions of those involved, the cost to ratepayers for the safe removal of the material as well as undertake decontamination of affected sites currently stands at \$45,000. This is equivalent to the establishment of a new playground, half a toilet block and nearly 300m of new footpath.

Council has reported these incidents to Work Safe Tasmania and the Tasmanian Environmental Protection Agency.

Penalties apply for the illegal dumping of dangerous materials. Council's Waste Transfer Attendants have been directed to report any attempt of hazardous material being illegally dumped at our WTS. The intent is that we will seek formal prosecution of those responsible in addition to seeking full cost recovery for safe removal of the material and associated decontamination costs.

The only WTS in our area that accepts asbestos is at Scamander however, you must first notify us so that we can make sure it has been packaged in a safe way and that there is an attendant ready to receive the waste. If you are unsure please just give us a call on 6376 7900. For more information on handling asbestos please refer to www.asbestossafety.gov.au.

Town Litter Tender

During the month of June Council will be re-tendering for the provision of its Town Litter Collection Service. This service will be municipal wide. Local businesses are encouraged to apply.

If this is something you or your organisation is interested in, please call or make an appointment with the Manager Infrastructure and Development Services on 6376 7900 to discuss this opportunity.



Now that we are mulching green waste it is important you make sure it is free from any other materials.

St Helens Waste Transfer Station Upgrades

Continuing our focus on reducing waste to landfill and a more sustainable community, we have made some changes at the St Helens Waste Transfer Station (WTS) but we need your help to make sure these systems work.

The current green waste pile at the St Helens WTS is now being shredded with a portion of it being double mulched as a trial with the aim to produce a saleable product that can be used for gardens. The income made from selling the mulch would go towards the cost of running the WTS. The process from mulching through to having a saleable product will take approx. 3 months with the first batch being used by Council to allow monitoring.

To produce a good clean garden mulch we need your help to ensure the green waste you take to the waste transfer station is free of other waste including plastic which is the main contamination occurring.

Secondly, we've also started dividing waste into several piles at the inert site at the back of the WTS. You will now

see piles for untreated timber, treated timber, furniture and mattresses and scrap steel. Your help to sort your waste into the piles is appreciated and means that we will be better equipped to reuse and recycle as much as possible.

The inert site is NOT a general landfill site and general rubbish should not be left there. If you go to the WTS with a mixed load please make sure you sort it out into the correct piles, follow the instructions of the site staff and ask for help if you need it. General household waste (garbage) should be placed in the blue bins.

Did you know there are many items you can dispose of at the St Helens WTS for free? This includes: polystyrene, cardboard, glass, steel, empty gas bottles, car batteries, e-waste (TVs, computers, printers, game consoles etc), car bodies, white goods except for fridges and freezers, waste oil, household paint, light globes and hard plastics. The transfer station attendant will direct you to the location to place these items.



What's On

Lunch and Munch

24 May

Held at Tidal Waters from 12 - 2pm, this month's event features Don Ives and Band as well as Christine Bailey and the Remnants. Members \$8 non-members \$12.

Cavaliers vs Kingston Blues

25 May

A state League Netball game between two of the state's top teams. Held at the Bendigo Bank Community Stadium from 1:30pm. Tickets available at the door.

Van Diemens Band

5 June

Five members of Tasmania's own baroque super-group, Van Diemen's Band, will perform at the Portland Memorial Hall, St Helens at 6pm on Wednesday 5 June. The 5-piece ensemble will be joined by internationally acclaimed singer, Lotte Betts-Dean. Tickets \$25 at vandiemensband.com.au and at the door

Bay of Fires Winter Arts Festival

8-10 June

Embracing all things arty, the Winter Arts Festival celebrates the arts in Tasmania. The festival includes artisan markets, an arts trail, art workshops and of course the \$20,000 Bay of Fires Art prize. For more information go to www.bayoffireswinterartsfestival.com.au

St Helens District School Winter Fair Celebration

June 9

Come and join St Helens District School's winter wonderland and celebrate all the amazing things the students can do. Featuring performances, cafe, student stalls, an upcycled fashion show, jumping castle, face painting and juggling workshops as well as a science and creative hub.

St Marys Community Car and Bike Show

9 June

Held in the main street of St Marys, this event starts at 9am. Featuring some of the coolest cars in the state, make sure you check it out.

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.

Look out for the new dog signage

Over the next few weeks you will notice some new dog signage popping up around the municipality. This signage reflects the changed dog zones developed as part of our new Dog Management Policy.

We have been working closely with Parks and Wildlife Service to ensure we found a balance between dogs and birdlife on beaches and will continue to work with them as we start educating our community about the changes, their importance as well as compliance.

To make sure we have made it as easy as possible for people to determine where and how their dogs are allowed, we have used the same colours as used to indicate the dog zones on the maps as well as easy to understand icons.

At important locations larger signs with maps may be used but with the same symbol and colour codes.

If you are a dog owner it is important that you understand your rights and responsibilities under the new policy including the Dog Zones.



Dog off lead area/beach



Dog on lead, always



Dogs Prohibited



Restricted Area
Check conditions of access - typically on-lead only
31 March to 1 October.

Find a copy of the Dog Management Policy and a map of our Dog Zones here, www.bodc.tas.gov.au/property/dogs

Weed of the month - Broom



Both Montpellier and English Broom are declared weeds in Tasmania.

Both types are woody shrubs growing to 2-3m, 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/

Gardens Road Reseal - a team approach

Funded by the Roads to Recovery Federal Grant, our works crews with help from local contractors have been re-sealing and widening a section of the Gardens Road.

Due to the sum of funding, approximately \$400,000, we made the decision to focus our work on the section which was causing the most concern to residents and visitors, this was the section between Kennel Hill road and Scotsman Creek.

As this section of road is located in a populated area, was narrow and increasingly frequented by larger vehicles like caravans, we felt this section should be our first priority for safety reasons.

We are very proud of how we approached this project as we found innovative ways of spreading the funding as far as we could and we also worked with as many local contractors as possible so the funding was not just supporting ratepayers but local businesses as well.

The new section of road has now been widened to 5.5 metres and re-sealed. This means the road is now wide enough to allow large vehicles to pass one another increasing the safety of the road.



Dog Registrations 2019/2020

We will be visiting your area to collect Dog Registration Fees.

PAY BEFORE JUNE 30 AND SAVE BETWEEN \$3 AND \$20 PER DOG.

FINGAL:

DATE: Tuesday 11 June 2019

TIME: 9.00am to 10.20am

WHERE – Fingal Valley Neighbourhood House, 29 Talbot Street, Fingal

MATHINNA:

DATE: Tuesday 11 June 2019

TIME: 11.00am to 12.30pm

WHERE – Mathinna Post Office, 81 High Street, Mathinna

ST MARYS:

DATE: Tuesday 11 June 2019

TIME: 1.45pm to 3.15pm

WHERE – St Marys Town Hall, 23 Main Street, St Marys

Acceptable Payment Type: Cash, Cheque, Eftpos & Money Order.

Mathinna Only: No Savings or Cheque account options available.

Only one pensioner discount per property.

Want to receive your newsletter via email?

Please email
jayne.richardson@bodc.tas.gov.au