

Next Council Meetings:
27 June and 18 July at 10am in the Council Chambers, St Helens

From the General Manager - John Brown

The Federal Election is now behind us and I like most people will not miss the bombardment of electoral advertising we receive during this time. Congratulations go to our sitting member Brian Mitchell who has been returned for a third term to the halls of power in Canberra. No doubt Brian had some nervous moments in the immediate aftermath of the election but he has won through at the end of the day. Now that Labor has formed Government, he will be well positioned to push for the things that matter to this community and to achieve meaningful outcomes. During the election we lobbied for the extension of the Georges Bay Foreshore Multi-user Track to be extended to the Stieglitz area. We know that this project is really important to the community and Brian took that on board and has committed to keep advocating for this project.

At least we now get a short breather until the next election which is of course the Local Government elections coming up later this year. One thing we can say about this election is that we will not be bombarded with the advertising which we have just been subjected to. Local Council elections are really important and now even more so as the Tasmanian Government have just passed legislation to make voting compulsory. This means you can no longer just decide not to vote, you MUST vote or face the consequences of potentially being fined. Last election Break O'Day had 72% voter response which was pretty good on a statewide basis. At least with Local Government elections it is postal voting, so it will just turn up in the mail and you just make your choices. Maybe the State and federal elections could be done like this as well in the future.

Bay of Fires Trail – New and Improved



Pictured above: A rider testing out one of the features on the new section.

The Bay of Fires Trail has just had a 4.8km makeover that includes new features and a ton of new fun thanks to Australian Government funding and construction by international MTB trail builders, World Trail.

The Bay of Fires MTB trail has been working its way into the vernacular of the MTB fraternity since it was officially opened in November 2019.

At 42kms long, it is known as an epic adventure trail that descends the Blue Tier winding and wending through rainforest to dry eucalypt forests all the way to the white, squeaky sand and crystal clear waters of Swimcart beach in the internationally acclaimed Bay of Fires.

Unlike the rest of the St Helens MTB Network which was designed with beginners and families in mind, the Bay of Fires Trail is more suited to dedicated mountain bike riders who are looking for the next big thing to tackle – it is a real bucket list trail.

The new section of trail is roughly a kilometre after the Ansons Bay halfway point. Originally this section was on an

old fire road and riders complained that it was the most uninteresting part of the ride. Break O'Day Council, heard the feedback and decided to do something about it.

"If you want to build the best mountain bike trails in the world, you need to listen to the riders that are using it." Break O'Day Mayor Mick Tucker said.

"After hearing this feedback we worked with World Trail to come up with a design that would get the trail off the fire road and become a fun new section of single track."

The new section is just shy of 5km and includes some cool features like a log-ride and section of berms around some impressive granite rocks. This means that the trail is now 100% single track from Ansons Bay to Swimcart beach.

Mayor Tucker said that the project would not have been possible without \$185,000 in Federal funding through the Recovery for Regional Tourism program.

Reduce your waste and reduce the cost

The Tasmanian Government's Landfill Levy will come in to effect on 1 July 2022. This levy means that Break O'Day Council, like all other Councils and operators disposing of waste in landfill, will be charged \$20 a tonne. The new State levy applies to both general waste and inert landfill waste. The current levy is \$7.50 per tonne and we currently dispose of 3,500 tonnes of waste to landfill each year. The increase in the waste levy to \$20/tonne will increase Council's waste costs by \$47,500 in the 2022-2023 financial year.

The Tasmanian Government also plans to increase the levy to \$40 per tonne in 2023 and \$60 in 2024 which will see our waste costs continue to rise. If as a community we want to keep waste charges down, we all must take responsibility for what we are throwing out.

The main objective of this levy is to get us all, from Local Government, to you, the householder, to think about ways we can reduce waste to landfill. It will also provide a revenue stream to the

government which will be reinvested back in to the State's waste services that will foster a circular economy. (A circular economy is a model that sees the life of products and materials extended through initiatives like repairing and recycling, minimising the need to landfill materials and to consume resources in making new materials.)

Because this is such an important issue that requires a whole village approach Council will be running several articles in the newsletter about ways to Avoid, Reduce, Reuse and Recycle as well as things we are doing to reduce waste to landfill but we also want to hear from you. Do you have some great ideas on how to reduce waste to landfill? Write in and tell us about them or share them on the War on Waste – Break O'Day Facebook page. (<https://www.facebook.com/WOWBOD>). We will share your ideas through our Facebook page and in the newsletter. Send your ideas to admin@bodc.tas.gov.au.

With One Voice - Sing for your Supper

The With One Voice, Break O'Day Community Choir received grant funding from Council to run a series of community singing and supper events. The first one was held on 24 May at the St Marys Hall and the next will be held in St Helens at the Portland Hall on 19 June at 11am for lunch.

The sessions are all about connecting with the community and are a great

chance for people to get together and reconnect after all the isolation and uncertainty caused by COVID.

The group rehearses every Tuesday from 5:15 at The Scamander Sports Complex if you would like to join in.

If you would like to know more about the group and their activities, they have a facebook page; www.facebook.com/withonevoicebreakoday



Development Service Information Sessions

Over the last month, the Development Services team have been running a series of information sessions for Real Estate Agents, builders, designers and plumbers.

Around 23 people attended the sessions which provided information on changes to the Statewide Planning Scheme as well as a range of other topics specifically for each group.

The sessions included a couple of presentations and if you were unable to make the sessions you can find this information on our website under Community Engagement under the tab titled, Development Information Sessions for Builders, Designers and Real Estate Agents.

Dog registration Due

Do you have a dog? Dog registrations have now been sent out and if you pay before 30 June you will receive a discount. To make a payment drop into the office at 32-34 Georges Bay Esplanade St Helens or call us on 6376 7900 to make a payment by credit card over the phone.

Registering your dog is a big part of being a responsible dog owner and is a legislated requirement and a fineable offence.

Registering your dog, and especially microchipping your dog makes it a lot easier for us to track you down if your dog has gone walk about without you.

At Council we quite often end up with dogs who have been found by staff or the public wandering the streets. The first thing we do is check for a tag or microchip and then our list of registered dogs as we would prefer to return them back to you as soon as possible then make them spend the night in the pound – which would be the human equivalent of being in jail. While we do take good care of them and feed and

Climate Change Action in Break O'Day

With a newly elected government there is a new national focus on Climate Change.

In recent years Break O'Day and other northern Tasmanian councils have been working together to discuss the challenges of climate change they and their communities share.

At Council's May meeting Councillors received from the University of Tasmania data updating projected temperature, rainfall and extremes at a municipal scale. The information is for people making design, planning and investment decisions to help them account for future Climate Change risks in Break O'Day. (You can find this document in the May 2022 Agenda on page 115.)

Council is an active member of a new Northern Councils Climate Action partnership which sees us all working together as a region. The partnership is providing direct support to Council on local issues to help us achieve

some priorities in 2022-2023. These include challenges such as reducing our own emissions from Council operations, climate-proofing our management of corporate risk, assets and infrastructure, and making sure, as Break O'Day grows, we avoid loss of life and property due to extreme weather threats such as flood and bushfire.

Climate Change affects everyone in Break O'Day in many different ways and we may judge the risks we each face and what to do about them differently. The two general strategies we are working on are 'mitigating' global warming to keep Climate Change manageable, and 'adapting' how we live and work as things change. We are looking at this from an organisational perspective as well as from a community perspective and how the community and municipality will need to respond to Climate Change and how we can all work together.



Township Plan Review Update

Council officers have now visited nine townships in the Break O'Day area where they gathered community ideas, challenges and issues. We anticipate that around 120 people attended these sessions.

For those that were unable to make it to their Township session, we ran an online survey. At the time of publishing this newsletter we had 230 responses to the survey from right across the municipality.

The idea of the Township Plans came about from the community when Council undertook community engagement to develop a 10 year Strategic Plan. Each township

expressed the desire to have a specific plan for each township that essentially provided Council with a list of priorities for each town. Just the exercise of going out and talking to the different township communities also helps us understand what is important to each community.

We have now closed the survey with the next step being collating all the information for each township and looking for common themes and ideas. Once we have finished collating the information we will develop an Action Plan for each township as well as a transparency document that will show what we heard at each location.

WHAT'S ON

Bay of Fires Winter Arts Festival

June 10 - 13

The Bay of Fires Winter Arts Festival will kick off on Friday 10 June at the Gala Opening where the winner of the major art prize will be announced. The Long weekend event includes exhibits of the major prize finalists as well as youth and local artwork. Other activities include a local arts studio trail called Secret People, Secret Places. For more information on the events head to their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/BOFWAF>

St Marys Community Car, Bike and Pedal Car Show

12 June

Held in the main street of St Marys from 9am – 2pm. See a range of amazing street machines. Includes prizes, live music, food stalls and market. Free entry.

With One Voice Break O'Day - Reconnect & Sing

19 June

Held at the Portland Hall from 11am – 12:30pm - WOVBO Choir is bringing its rehearsal and supper to your local hall. Come along and have a sing, feel good and make some new connections with your community. All welcome

Van Deiman Band – Bach Concertos

29 June

Held at the Portland Hall the Van Dieman band will perform an all Bach program. Tickets available from vandiemanband.com.au

LOCAL MARKETS

St Helens - Every Saturday

The Markets alternate between setting up their stalls at the Portland Hall or in the Visitor Information Centre Car-park.

St Marys - First Saturday of the month

Held at the St Marys Hall.

Keep up to date on Council activities and projects by joining our email database.

We have databases for each township as well as a Newsletter database that we regularly use to send information directly to our community. If you would like to be added to any of our databases please email admin@bodc.tas.gov.au

Council Works Reports

- **St Marys Footpath** Project complete.
- **Medea Cove Esplanade Footpath** Asphaltting will be undertaken the week of 30/6 weather permitting
- **Grading – Ansons Bay Road North and Lottah** Ansons Bay road has been graded including some resheeting, maintenance grading currently is being undertaken on North Ansons bay and the road network in the Lottah area.
- **Kirwans Jetty Refurbishment** Work underway with pylons all installed. Construction has now started on super structure.



Pictured above: Works at Possum Tom

Pictured Below - Pile driving at Kirwans Jetty



Weed of the month - Broom



Both Montpellier broom and English broom are woody shrubs growing to 2-3m with bright yellow pea flowers and hard long-lived seeds that can be flicked more than 3 metres when the pods pop open. They are both Declared Weeds in Tasmania.

Brooms can establish themselves just

about anywhere and take over paddocks or out compete native vegetation and change the habitat of fauna.

It is a good time to treat broom. Small plants can be easily hand pulled from the ground, larger isolated plants might need digging, or try cutting them close to the base and quickly painting the stump with herbicide. Larger infestations can be sprayed and maybe cut back and treated with herbicide when the new growth develops. Biological controls such as sap-sucking psyllids on Montpellier broom are a help.

Make sure you have a sensible long-term control plan and follow-up. For more information please visit www.nre.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/weeds/

Possum Tom Footpath Works - Update

Section 1 of the footpath is almost complete and works crews have started on Section 2 while tides and winds are favourable.

Section 2 includes the main shoreline and the Possum Tom headland area. The crews aim to try to raise this section as much as possible before low tides change to the night hours.

Section 3 is the final section and

will see the footpath connect to the Talbot Street jetty via elevated timber structure.

During the construction of Section 1, Council officers found that one of the trees had two dangerous limbs overhanging the footpath area. To ensure public safety, these limbs were removed in accordance with the Break O'Day Interim Planning Scheme 2013.

Medea/Quail intersection Round-About

Construction of the Medea/Quail Street mini round-about is scheduled to start mid to late June depending on the availability of contractors.

Once work starts we anticipate that there will be traffic control in place for up to 3 weeks.

The round-about will ensure the intersection is safer for traffic and pedestrians. This project has been

partially funded by the Federal Government through their Black Spot Program.

The Australian Government are providing \$65,000 in funding for the project with the State Government contributing \$2000 as well.

Can you help your community?

Are you an experienced driver? Are you willing to volunteer one or more hours a week of your time to help others in our community get their licence?

If so, the Get in2 Gear program needs you.

The Learner Driver Mentor Program is a Tasmanian Government and Council funded program that supports community members who are having difficulty getting their licence. If you would like to join our Learner Driver Mentors, please contact Jenna on 63767900

GET IN2GEAR