

**Next Council Meetings:
15 June 2026 and 20 July 2026 at 10am in the Council Chambers**

From the General Manager - John Brown

There are certain times of the year at Council, like the last few months, that can be really challenging as we progress through our annual cycles. This time of year is all about Budgets and Plans for the year ahead. Having been through this process many times before, I have a good understanding of how it usually unfolds. This year has been particularly challenging as we have grappled with the impact of a new General Revaluation for the entire municipality, something that occurs every six years. In the past we have seen a reasonably consistent overall impact, whereas this time we are struggling to identify common themes. Property values have changed significantly across different areas: Falmouth +43%, Cornwall +40%, Ansons Bay +10%, Upper Esk +3%. The same applies across use classes: Quarries +88%, Primary Production (mainly farming) +5%, Residential +28%, Vacant Land +39%. It is no wonder our Finance team have been working hard to manage these changes within our rating model. The key takeaway is that comparisons between properties are virtually impossible because there are so many variables at play. It is important to understand that Council has no say in property valuations. We simply receive the valuations from the Office of the Valuer-General and pay for the work undertaken. If a property owner believes their valuation is incorrect, they can lodge an objection with the Valuer-General. Council and staff have worked incredibly hard to develop the best possible Budget for the year ahead. This has been challenging due to significant cost increases beyond our control, while also recognising cost-of-living pressures and the impact of Council rates. The funds we raise help deliver the wide range of services our community wants and needs.

St Helens History Room - Celebrating 40 Years of Preserving Local History



Photo: Community gathers to celebrate Break O'Day's rich history.

The St Helens History Room celebrated 40 years of preserving and sharing the stories, people and places that have shaped the Break O'Day community.

To mark the milestone, a special exhibition titled *People, Places and Possibilities* was launched, highlighting the history and development of the History Room and Museum over the past four decades. The exhibition is currently on display at the St Helens History & Visitor Information Centre and will remain open until December 2026.

Celebrations also included *A Night at the Museum*, hosted by the Friends of the St Helens History Room & Museum Inc. on 16 May 2026. The evening brought together volunteers, supporters,

members and invited guests for a night of live music, storytelling, quizzes and raffles, with many embracing the occasion in historical costume.



Photo: With One Voice Choir performs at the event.

Originally established by Peter and Kathleen Burns in 1974, the History Room has grown into an important community resource and home to the renowned Burns Collection — an extensive archive of photographs, maps and historical records capturing the history of St Helens and the region.

The museum is currently hosting a temporary exhibition of Persian artefacts on loan from a local collector, featuring ceramics, textiles, silverware and artwork on display over the next three months.

The anniversary highlighted the important role the St Helens History Room and Museum continues to play within the community, preserving the region's heritage while creating opportunities for residents and visitors to explore and connect with stories from the past.



Photo: Residents Jenny & Michael win "Best Dressed"

St Helens Among Australia's Best Towns



Photo: Aerial view of St Helens

St Helens has been recognised as one of Australia's top towns, ranking number 13 in a recent list of the nation's top 100 towns.

Break O'Day Mayor Mick Tucker said the result was a proud achievement for the community and reflected what locals have long known about the region.

"We've always known St Helens is one of the best places in Australia, and it's fantastic to see that recognised nationally," Mayor Tucker said. He said the ranking reflected not only

the natural beauty of the area but also the people who make the community special. "This recognition belongs to our residents, businesses, volunteers and community groups who help make Break O'Day such a welcoming and vibrant place to live and visit," he said. This recognition highlights the growing appeal of Tasmania's East Coast and reinforces the importance of continuing to invest in local infrastructure, public spaces and community wellbeing to support the region's future success.

Recycle Rewards Reverse Vending Machine Opens in St Helens



Photo: TOMRA employee and Deputy Mayor Kristi Chapple visiting the new Recycle Rewards Site in St Helens

Break O'Day will welcome its first Recycle Rewards reverse vending machine, with the new St Helens facility now open at the St Helens Sports Complex off Tully Street. The machine allows locals to return eligible drink containers and receive a 10 cent refund for each one.

Mayor Mick Tucker said the community had been eagerly awaiting the service. "Our community has been asking when Recycle Rewards would arrive in St Helens and have been stockpiling their containers, so it is terrific to finally be able to say: it is here and ready to use,"

Recycle Rewards is Tasmania's container refund scheme, providing a 10 cent refund for eligible drink containers between 150ml and 3 litres. Residents can choose to redeem their refund or donate it to participating local organisations, including the St Helens District High School Association and the St Helens RSL. Refunds can also be redeemed at the Bay of Fires IGA. Eligible containers should not be crushed and labels should remain attached so the machine can identify them. Further information is available from the Recycle Rewards website.

IN BRIEF

PYENGANA HALL TO GET A NEW LID

As part of Council's ongoing building asset management program, the Pyengana Hall will soon receive a new roof.

Works are scheduled to commence in late May and are expected to be completed prior to 30 June 2026.



WELLBEING IN BREAK O' DAY

Head on over and like the Wellbeing in Break O'Day Facebook page! www.facebook.com/groups/wellbeinginbreakoday

The page is your one-stop destination for all things wellbeing across Break O'Day. You'll find information about local events, workshops, programs, information sessions, and opportunities to connect with your community.

Follow the page to stay up to date with what's happening in Break O'Day and discover ways to support your health and wellbeing. You can also connect with Renee our new Community Wellbeing Officer. Renee's role is focused on supporting the health, connection and wellbeing of our community. Feel free to reach out to connect and share your thoughts and ideas: renee.dunn@bodc.tas.gov.au

EFTPOS MACHINES NOW AVAILABLE AT WASTE

TRANSFER STATIONS IN:

St Helens

Scamander

St Marys

Fingal

Getting it Right — Together

Council is introducing bin tags to help reduce contamination in waste and recycling.

Most residents are doing the right thing, but when incorrect items end up in bins, it can have a costly impact. Contaminated recycling loads can be rejected and sent to landfill, while inappropriate items in general waste can damage trucks and equipment.

To help address this, Council will begin placing bin tags on bins where contamination is identified. Tags will also be used to inform residents other reasons their bin may not have been collected.

A warning tag will show what items don't belong and help residents correct

the problem before the next collection. If contamination continues, bins may not be collected until the issue is resolved.

Mayor Mick Tucker said the initiative is about working with the community to improve outcomes.

"This isn't about catching people out — it's about helping everyone get it right," Mayor Tucker said.

"When we reduce contamination, we keep recycling out of landfill and keep costs down for the whole community."

Residents are encouraged to check their waste calendar or visit Council's website for more information on what goes where visit www.bodc.tas.gov.au/property/waste/



Water Restrictions Lifted Across Tasmania

Great news for communities across the state – TasWater has lifted water restrictions following recent welcome rainfall. The rain has helped restore river flows and dam levels, allowing most supply systems to recover after last week's heavy weather.

Restrictions lifted in Orford and Triabunna, Oatlands, Scamander and Whitemark.

Lady Barron (Flinders Island) remains

on Stage 1 restrictions while local conditions continue to be monitored.

While this is positive news, we're encouraging everyone to continue using water wisely. With the potential for drier conditions ahead, every drop still counts.

Simple actions at home and work can make a big difference.

To stay up to date and for water saving tips visit: www.taswater.com.au

Help Shape Council's Newsletter

Council is inviting readers to provide feedback as part of a review and redesign of the community newsletter. The review aims to better understand how you access local information, what you value most and how the newsletter can be improved to better meet your needs.

Feedback will help guide future changes to the newsletter's design,

layout, content and delivery methods, ensuring it remains an informative, easy-to-read and accessible source of local news and updates across Break O'Day.

Scan the QR code or visit www.bodc.tas.gov.au/community/news-events/



WHAT'S ON

With One Voice Break O'Day Choir Every Tuesday

Doors open at 5pm with buses running from St Helens and Fingal Valley to the Falmouth Community Centre. Come along, enjoy singing in a group, connecting with community and sharing a delicious supper. Contact Liz 0439 001 533 for more information.

Carer's Group - Fourth Tuesday Every Month

Supported by Care2Serve, the group welcomes anyone caring for a family member or friend. Meetings provide an opportunity for support, discussion and connection, with regular guest speakers offering information and guidance to support carers on their journey. 1.30pm at the St Helens Neighbourhood House.

Georges Bay, Tides, Sea Level Rise & Coastal Risks -18 June

At this free event focussing on Georges Bay scientists from ACEAS and UTas and will share their research on Bay sea levels and information systems being developed to help us with future challenges around the Bay. 7pm-8:30pm at Panorama Hotel, St Helens All welcome. No RSVP required.

Bay of Fires Winter Arts Festival 5-14 June (Long Weekend)

The 2026 Bay of Fires Winter Arts Festival is designed to celebrate the arts in all forms. The festival encompasses just about anything you can imagine at their Art Exhibitions. Enjoy our region and original art creations whether you're art curious or art lovers. For more information visit www.bayoffireswinterartsfestival.com.au/

Youth Mental Health First Aid Course - 25-26 June

Learn how to support the young people in your life. 25-26 June, 9-5pm, to be confirmed St Marys 7215, cost \$50pp lunch and course materials provided. Free transport available. To register, organise transport or have financial barriers and would like to attend contact casey.musicka@fvnh.org.au

Winter Lights Solstice Festival - Saturday 20 June

Fun for all ages. Live music, lantern making, parade, fire sculpture and more. Entry by donation, BYO chair, FREE camping. St Marys Recreation Ground. Contact bodregionalsarts@gmail.com

Annual Beach Clean Up - October 2026

CJR Foundation and Tangaroa Blue, with the support of the Council, will be hosting a community beach clean up at Binalong Bay in October. This will be an annual event so keep a look out for date and time on Council's Facebook to come along and be inspired.

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.

Council Works Reports

- Gravel Road Resheeting activities completed on:
Upper Scamander Road
Segment, on Ansons Bay Road
Segments, on Reids Road
- New Stormwater system completed on Aulichs lane St Marys
- Town Maintenance crews busy with Autumn clean-up activities and addressing vegetation around roadside streets and paths, kerb and channel and stormwater infrastructure

Coming up

- Shoulder repair work due to commence early June (weather/contractor dependent) on St Helens Point road at the O'Connors beach area
- Ansons Bay WTS bin access ramp is being overhauled – no impact to use is expected during work.



Follow Break O'Day Council on Facebook

for the latest news, updates and community info!

www.facebook.com/BreakODayCouncil

WEED MANAGEMENT

- **Fingal:** Thistles, Spanish heath, Broadleaf weeds.
- **Pyengana:** Foxglove, Spanish heath.
- **St Helens:** Blackberry, African boxthorn, mirror bush, thistles.
- **Stieglitz:** Thistles, mullein, caper spurge, mirror bush, African daisy.

DOG STATISTICS

APRIL 2026

Urban Patrols = 14
Beach Patrols = 9
Infringements = 0
Unregistered Dog = 0
Impounded Dogs = 2

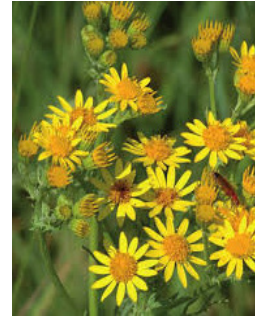
Weed of the Month - ragwort

Ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*) is a highly invasive weed of pastures and will invade bushland. It is a Declared Pest in Tasmania and prefers areas where annual rainfall is over 700mm.

Seeds are spread by wind and in other ways (eg. livestock) and are viable in the soil for eight years. Rosettes of smelly dark green leaves follow mostly autumn germination. These 'bolt' in late spring with flower heads of yellow daisy flowers. Ragwort is normally biennial and is poisonous to livestock. Care is needed for successful control. It can dug when at rosette growth stage and be pulled from wet soil by flower shoots. But its roots are thick and will regrow if not fully removed and after

other disturbance (including livestock trampling). Such regrowth becomes perennial. Herbicides are effective, but less so after rosettes bolt and care is needed to encourage alternative vegetation cover.

Preventing spread of seeds is important – stop seed-set, good hygiene and remove and destroy any flowering shoots. For more lookup ragwort at www.nre.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/weeds



Locals Step Up to Protect Our Coastline



Photo: Locals volunteering to help protect our beautiful coastline with Dr. Jennifer Lavers and Debi Spencer-Smith

On a sunny first day of winter Dr. Jennifer Lavers and Debi Spencer-Smith conducted a community workshop aimed at training locals in a specific beach debris monitoring method.

Dr. Jen is from the Tangaroa Blue Foundation who work across Australia to prevent and remove marine debris. Their mission is to inspire action and people to make data driven decisions to stop the flow of litter at its source. Debi represents the Callum and Jake Robinson Foundation which was created after the tragic loss of the two brothers in 2024. Programs such as monitoring beaches continues the brothers legacy through promoting care for the ocean and environment they loved so deeply. Tangaroa Blue

and CJR Foundations work closely together here in Tasmania and in WA to do this work.

Many participants in the workshop, who already spend time cleaning their local beaches, signed up to monitor a specific section of their beach. Monitoring is undertaken every three (3) months, so time commitment is relatively low. Debris collected is entered on an app and this data is used by scientists to inform what is occurring on our beaches and in our waters.

Dr. Jen and Debi will be conducting another workshop in the area before the end of year. If you are interested please contact Debi 0400663296 or email devalski@icloud.com

“Coming together is the beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success.”