

## First ever O'Connor's Beach Park Run - A massive success



The starting line of the first O'Connors Beach Park Run. A new, free 5km timed event every Saturday morning.

On Saturday 6 May 2023, 117 participants walked, jogged and ran around the multipurpose track starting and ending at O'Connors Beach, St Helens. A large number of local first timers registered on the day for the free event and many personal bests were achieved in the running community. For the launch of the event, a colourful socks theme was selected to honour Chris Smithurst who was known for his outrageous sock choices. Community members Ash Edgar and

Gaye Bourke who were motivated by their shared passion for running, health and wellbeing and the physical, mental and social benefits of exercise, worked behind the scenes for 12 months to bring the event to the Break O' Day community. Held every Saturday, participants are also invited to a post-run coffee at the Parkside Bar and Kitchen.

The O'Connors Beach Park Run is a free 5km event that starts at 9am on Saturday and is focused on improving



Thanks to all the volunteers who made the event possible.



The Park Run is for everyone- walkers and rollers welcome.

the health and wellbeing of the Break O'Day community as well as encourage people to come together and connect. Council is proud to be a financial supporter of this event and we would like to congratulate the organisers and volunteers for making the event happen as well as all the participants for helping make the event such a success.

You can find more information on the event's website; [www.parkrun.com.au/oconnorsbeach](http://www.parkrun.com.au/oconnorsbeach) or on their facebook page.

## Jack Jumpers Basketball Clinic

The St Helens Basketball Association were lucky enough to host the Tasmanian Jack Jumpers Basketball coaching staff on 13 May 2023. Held at the Bendigo Bank Community Stadium, the clinic offered a full day of professional coaching and fun, interactive games. Team mascot "Jack the Jumper" also made an appearance, interacting with the kids and getting involved with the coaching drills and games. It was a successful event with 38 kids in

attendance out of the possible 40 spots available. Jack jumpers staff enjoyed the day in St Helens and commented that they would love to come back and hold more events in the future. For anyone interested, the St Helens Basketball Association runs basketball for ages 7 and up every Monday night at the Bendigo Bank Community Stadium.



Participants with 'Jack the Jumper'.



## Sculpture Trail Update

Progress on the sculpture to be installed at Beauty Bay, St Helens is almost complete.

Stone sculptor, Anita Denholm, is carving a 2 metre tall statue consisting of a human face from grey granite and said she is really happy with her piece which, she has mostly completed using an angle grinder and mini jackhammer. The last stage of the work mostly involved adding definition and polishing the statue.

The five to seven tonne granite block was quarried on our very own East Coast of Tasmania and Anita said, "This piece will outlast all of us, being the granite that it is - it's one of the hardest stones in the world."

The statue will be unveiled in mid-June during the Bay of Fires Winter Arts Festival and will join the two other

sculptures along the Georges Bay Multi-User track. The first two statues were installed last year as part of the St Helens Destination Action Plan (DAP) project, Off the Trail, Sculpture Walk. The DAP group plans to continue to add to the Trail as funding is secured. The group said they wanted to add to the experience of walking around the bay.

Ms Denholm says her contribution to the trail pays homage to the people of the east coast, past and present and is intended to appear to look contemplatively across the bay. The sculpture will be transported from Launceston and driven to St Helens. Due to the statue's weight, the council have identified two potential spots on the Beauty Bay walking track for the sculpture to be placed.



Image courtesy of ABC Tasmania: Anita Denholm working on her sculpture project.

## When are maintenance works no longer considered maintenance?

When are maintenance works no longer considered maintenance?

Council's Development Services team get asked this question all the time so we thought we would try to explain what we mean by maintenance and non-maintenance works.

All Councils have a set of regulations and legislation that we must operate under, one of these is the Building Act 2019. The Act defines maintenance works as: "Building works on existing buildings or structures for maintenance purposes using the same or similar materials, equipment, installations and components to those being replaced; including windows and doors, external

wall cladding, floor and wall finishes".

There is some misunderstanding in the community that structures or parts of dwellings such as decks can be demolished and rebuilt as maintenance, but unfortunately this is not the case. There may be some exceptions, but the good news is you can always get in touch with us. We ask if you are planning to rebuild something or you think your renovations project may be outside of these requirements, please phone Council's Development Services Team who can give you the right advice for your situation and avoid any issues.

**"There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about."**

**- Margaret J. Wheatley**

## IN BRIEF 14 years of Free Dress Friday at Council

Ever wondered why Council staff are often in free dress on a Friday? That is because every second Friday we have 'Free Dress Friday' where we donate funds raised to charities. This year will be our 14th year of donating.

We always try to focus on local charities in need and over the years we have donated to a number of local families in need, Riding for the Disabled, Share the Dignity, Wombat Rescue, Breast Cancer, Anglicare, Day for Daniel, North East Animal Care and many more.

## Batteries can no longer be dropped at Council Office

Council will no-longer have a battery collection service in our foyer but there are still battery collection points around the municipality including at the IGA supermarkets.

If you are unsure where you can recycle your batteries, Rethink Waste has a battery recycling location finder on their website, [rethinkwaste.com.au](http://rethinkwaste.com.au).

# Future of Local Government Review Update

## From the General Manager - John Brown

Following last month's column, a very valid question was asked by an interested community member who wanted to know more about the advantages and disadvantages of Council amalgamations. Throughout the current process, there has been no discussion about this very important aspect instead, the Local Government Board, has run a process focussed on what Local Government should do into the future - the function of your local Council rather than the shape of it in terms of boundaries. The Board believes that a larger Council would have better resources and capabilities to respond to current, and emerging community needs, such as planning, housing, strained transport networks, and climate change mitigation.

I do agree that a larger Council would have specialised resources and capabilities in-house and as the General Manager, having these resources available immediately is great. However, are they a 'need to have' or a 'nice to have'? What actually matters is the services that our community members rely upon and whilst we might not have specialised employees, we do have employees with a broad range of skills who deliver what is needed. Our size is not affecting our capacity to address issues such as housing and climate change mitigation, we are increasingly active in this space and in the case of climate change mitigation, we are also part of a regional project involving all eight northern Councils which is focussed on taking a shared approach.

Yes, there are some potential cost savings from amalgamation but it will be a very small fraction of the overall Council budget. There will be a few less management positions but work doesn't go away, someone still has to do it just at

a lower cost.

No doubt some operational savings will be found in areas such as IT Software, Insurances, Auditing etc but there will be no savings from the services we have to deliver - the length of a road doesn't reduce, the amount of grass to be mown doesn't shrink, the needs of ratepayers, their questions, and requests remain the same. There will be some savings from less elected members and management positions but at the end of the day, we are talking about small savings. And there will be a significant cost to implement these changes which is yet to be really discussed and explored.

One of the greatest fears we have heard from the community is the loss of representation and the ease at which they can contact their local Councillor. There is no doubt that the amount of Councillors for an enlarged area is not going to increase, in fact there has been no indication as to what this representation will look like from the Board.

In closing, the Local Government Board has failed to provide the information necessary for the community to understand the benefits and impacts (advantages and disadvantages) of amalgamations. This leaves people uninformed, confused, and concerned. Interested community members should look at the information provided and make a submission to the Board. It is really important that the Board hears from you what your concerns are so that they fully understand the community's sentiment one way or another.

## WHAT'S ON

### Live Well Live Long

**Thursdays - 4 May - 8 June**

This free six week program is aimed at people over 65 and aims to help you live well and live longer. For more information or to book your place call Lynn on 6387 5555.

### Shelfali Pryor – Virtuosi Tasmania June 2

Held at the Portland Hall, Tickets \$25 concession, \$30 Adults. Go to [www.virtuositas.org.au](http://www.virtuositas.org.au)

### Bay of Fires Winter Arts Festival 9-12 June

Held over the long weekend this annual event features the official opening of the Bay of Fires Art Prize, Locals Prize and Youth Prize as well as a market and Arts Trail. For more information go to [www.bayoffireswinterartsfestival.com.au](http://www.bayoffireswinterartsfestival.com.au)

### St Marys car, Bike and Pedal Car Show 11 June

This year's event will have no road closures or allocated car spots. Just park your pride and joy along Main Street, Faulkner's Ground or the grassed area near the Cranks & Tinker Museum.

### Breast Cancer Bus 28 June - 21 July

The Breast Screen Bus will be at the St Helens Hospital from the 28 June to the 21 July. Phone 13 20 50 to make a Free appointment.

### Ships of St Helens Exhibition at St Helens History Room

Come in and visit the latest exhibition at the St Helens History Room 'Ships of St Helens' where visitors can find information, images and objects from the major ships that serviced Georges Bay and the early settlement of St Helens. Also, as part of the display there is a wonderful textile triptych from the collection representing the early maritime history associated with St Helens. Grab friends and family members – it won't break the budget at all – or, come in during the month of August when visiting the St Helens History Room is free! Part of the Tasmanian Tourism campaign The Off Season.

**The Future of Local Government Review Stage three documents can be found on our website under the News section.**

**Documents include: An Information Pack outlining the 'Community Catchment Area' proposed as a starting point for amalgamations. There are also a number of supporting papers worth a read.**

**You will also find a link to the Make a Submission page – this is where you can share your thoughts on the Review.**

### 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

- Sealing works continues throughout the municipality.
- Cecilia Streetscape project in progress.
- Recent resheeting activities on Policemans Point Rd, Eddystone and Anchor Roads have been completed.
- Council is now concentrating on resheeting parts of North Forest Lodge Rd followed by St Marys area and Roses Tier.
- New columbarium and remembrance wall at St Marys Cemetery is underway with a large portion of the concreting work completed.
- Town maintenance crews working throughout the municipality. Cornwall Memorial Soldiers Park pathworks and drainage continue on this project.

### WEED MANAGEMENT

**Akaroa-** Thistles.

**Binalong Bay-** Blackberry, thistles, bridal creeper, Kniphofia uvaria, multiple weed varieties.

**St Helens-** Broadleaf, thistles, blackberry, multiple weed varieties.

**St Marys-** Broadleaf, multiple weed varieties.

**Stieglitz-** Thistles, Spanish Heath, Fleabane, mullein.

**Weldborough -** Holly.

### DOG STATISTICS 6/04/2023 - 5/05/2023

Urban Patrols = 4  
Beach Patrols = 16  
Infringements = 0  
Unregistered Dog = 2  
Impounded dogs = 1

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

Email  
admin@bodc.tas.gov.au

## 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 be dug out 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 disturbances (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](http://www.nre.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/weeds).

## New App for reporting road kill sightings

As the weather gets colder, the days shorter and the wet years come to an end our wildlife is moving about when more of us are on the road. You may have noticed a fair bit of roadkill on our roads. We are doing more driving at dawn and dusk this time of year so please slow down and be alert for wildlife along our roads.

Information about roadkill helps road managers and wildlife carers develop strategies to reduce roadkill. But remember safety first! Along our roads you must put the safety of others and yourself first. Don't touch roadkill with your bare hands.

For more information about how to avoid animals on Tasmanian roads, what to do if you hit an animal with your car, and how to report Tasmanian Wildlife Roadkill visit <https://nre.tas.gov.au/wildlife-management/living-with-wildlife/tasmanian-wildlife-roadkill>

And you can report any roadkill sightings online with a form available here [www.nre.tas.gov.au/wildlife-management/living-with-wildlife/tasmanian-wildlife-roadkill/report-a-roadkill-sighting](http://www.nre.tas.gov.au/wildlife-management/living-with-wildlife/tasmanian-wildlife-roadkill/report-a-roadkill-sighting). Or you could consider installing the new Roadkill Reporter App, linked there too.

### COMING SOON

Break O'Day Community

## WELLBEING CERTIFICATE

### CREATE MORE WELLBEING FOR OTHERS + YOURSELF

Join a FREE 8 week program to strengthen your wellbeing muscles.  
Spend a few hours each week doing fun, action-based activities + learning together in a group.

Get ideas + tips to enhance wellbeing at home, at work + in your community.  
Design a community project to create more wellbeing for those around you.

STARTING IN JULY

find out more @ [www.wellbeingaction.org](http://www.wellbeingaction.org)

Connect with Leah at Break O'Day Council [wellbeing@bodc.tas.gov.au](mailto:wellbeing@bodc.tas.gov.au) 6376 7900

Thank you Cheryl Mobbs for your fabulous photo :)



Supporting Partner  
**THEWELLBEINGLAB**